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## Special Articles This Month

South Australian News and Notes
Summer Irrigation
Drying Apricots—Peaches—Pears
Goulburn Valley Reports
Tasmanian News and Notes
Know Your Soil
Queensland News and Notes
Seasonable Orchard Work
Dried and Canned Fruits
West Australian Reports


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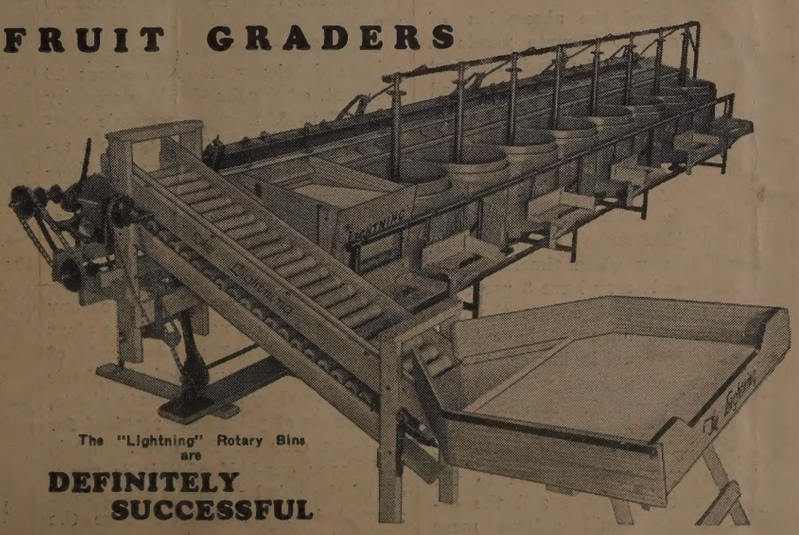

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# KNOW YOUR SOIL

## KNOW THE LIME REQUIREMENT OF YOUR SOIL.

Continued from November issue.

While the proper degree of acidity or alkalinity in the soil for the ideal growth of most crops has been very well established, to obtain this condition is an individual problem for each soil. The soil clay and organic matter have the power to hold available the plant food necessary for the growing crop. This same complex becomes acid in nature and depleted for bases (calcium, magnesium, potassium and sodium). For the optimum growth of Tomatoes, most vegetable crops and many farm crops, this complex should be about 60 per cent. saturated with calcium and about 20 per cent. saturated with magnesium. In other words, when the soil is limed the acid nature of the clay and organic matter is saturated with the calcium and magnesium supplied by the liming material. This phase of soil improvement is very important.

However, soils differ tremendously in the amount of lime necessary to give the desired results. The pH value of the soil only gives the extent of the depletion, but a test for calcium, magnesium, the organic matter content, and a knowledge of the soil type gives information for determining the lime required. Each successful grower must have this information either through scientific analyses or through practical study. It is far easier and less expensive through laboratory studies than through practical experiments. Sandy soils change more rapidly than heavy soils and must be subjected to chemical analyses more often.

Satisfying the lime requirement of the soil is only another step in getting ready for maximum crop production and supplying the other major plant food elements is another necessary step.

### Know the Requirements of Your Soil for Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potash.

THE AMOUNT OF NITROGEN held in the soil is almost entirely associated with the organic matter content. The rate at which it becomes available is almost entirely dependent upon the texture of the soil, the composition of the organic matter and the prevailing climatic conditions. The soil organic matter analyses about 5 per cent. nitrogen, therefore, if a sandy loam soil has 15 tons of humus to the acre (1.5 per cent.) it will have approximately 1,500 pounds of nitrogen to the acre. Of this, probably less than 5 per cent. will be nitrified in a year.

Since some of the nitrogen is lost to the air and some leached, it is obvious that the supplemental must be supplied from cover crops, manure and commercial fertilizer. A crop of 10 tons of Tomatoes will utilize more than 100 pounds of nitrogen and it requires a ton of 5-10-10 fertilizer to supply a hundred pounds of nitrogen. However, if the mere addition of 100 pounds of nitrogen to the soil was all that was necessary to supply the nitrogen, it would be pretty simple, but this nitrogen must become available as the plant needs it or it may be lost through leaching.

**The status of the absorption of nitrogen by 3,000 Tomato plants is approximately 3 or 4 pounds the first month, 25 or 30 pounds the second month and 50 or 60 pounds the third month.**

However, the plant is not in physical contact with all of the soil so there must be actually more than the above specified amounts available in the soil at any given time. Heavy silty loam soils may have 3 per cent. organic matter and, due to the clay content, would have to have that amount to be equal in immediate fertility to a sandy loam with 1.5 per cent. organic matter. A silty loam with 3 per cent. organic matter would have 30 tons of humus or 3,000 pounds of nitrogen. However, due to the compact nature of the soil the organic matter would oxidize more slowly and would only make available about the same amount of nitrogen as the sandy soil.

**The safest way to have adequate nitrogen in the soil available to the plant is through a good organic matter content and supplemented by** plant debris, manure and commercial fertilizers An analysis of the soil for the organic matter content and a knowledge of the plant material returned to the soil give the grower a working basis for nitrogen fertilization.

### Phosphorus.

The phosphorus requirement of the plant is about one-third as much as nitrogen in actual weight, but there are more phosphate-deficient soils than there are nitrogen-deficient ones and still there is more phosphorus applied as commercial fertilizers. This is due to the fixation power of the soil. In other words, it is difficult to keep phosphorus available to the plants even though it is not leached from the soil.

This fixation varies tremendously from soil to soil. Strongly acid soils fix in an unavailable state more phosphorus than properly limed soils; soils well supplied with organic matter fix less than soils poorly supplied and red and yellow soils more than gray and brown soils. A thousand pounds of 5-10-10 fertilizer will supply three times as much phosphorus as is needed for a 10-ton crop of Tomatoes. However, many soils will require more phosphorus than that to produce 10 tons.

To safeguard a crop from phosphorus deficiency, lime to about 80 per cent. of the lime-holding capacity (pH 6.2 to 6.5), supply organic matter in abundant amounts and use selected methods of applying the phosphorus, but above all find out if your soil is the type that has a high phosphate requirement.

### Potash.

By far the largest amount of any of the plant foods needed by the plant is potash. Whereas 100 pounds of nitrogen and 35 pounds of phosphoric acid are used by 3,000 Tomato plants, 200 pounds of potash are required for a 10-ton crop of Tomatoes. While little over one-half of this is taken off of the soil by the fruit, the total amount is required to produce the crop. Since most satisfactory crops produce from 15 to 20 tons of Tomatoes (harvested 10 to 15 tons), it is readily seen that the use of adequate potash is necessary. Many soils are deficient in potash, therefore, it is necessary to supply a large part of it in commercial fertilizers. However, here again soil improving crops in the crop rotation are important.

**A knowledge of the amount of readily available potash in the soil can be learned from a quick analysis of the soil** A crop producing programme to maintain in an available state an adequate supply of potash can be established if one knows his soil conditions.

### Summary and Conclusion.

THERE IS AVAILABLE A wealth of practical and scientific information about soils, but for a grower to succeed he must know his own soil. He must study this soil, find out when to plough it and how to plough it to get it into the best physical condition for the crop to be grown. He must learn the status of lime in the soil and know how much is needed to put the soil in an ideal condition for crop growth as well as how to apply it and when. He must know how much organic matter he has in his soil and whether his crop rotation is building or tearing down his supply. He must know how much nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash are required and how to apply them. The grower must get this information through a system of analyses of his soils, or through the hard way, by trial and error.

Last, but not least, the grower must be open-minded and receptive to new idea. He must study scientific information advanced and think about his conditions and see if he can apply the information to his farm and farming practices. In other words, he is the master of his own ship and where he steers it, it will land.

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**December 5th, 1945**

## Peace on Earth Goodwill to Men

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## NEWS OF THE MONTH

The opinion was recently expressed by Mr. H. Wenholz, deputy chief of the Plant Industry division of the N.S.W. Dept. of Agric., that the soy bean was unlikely to be a major Australian crop.

Results of trials by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research with Penicillin as a cure for certain types of mastitis in dairy cows are definitely encouraging.

The Greater Gippsland and Snowy Rivers Protection Development League has protested against proposals for the diversion of the Snowy River into the Murrumbidgee.

The executive of the Victorian Dairy Farmers' Association recently carried a resolution requesting the Federal Government to act firmly to secure the retention of Empire Preference as agreed upon at the Ottawa Conference.

### PIONEER ORCHARDISTS.

Mr. A. F. Thiele, of Doncaster, Vic., recently celebrated his 90th birthday. His son Everard, reports that his father is remarkably well and still spends a great deal of his time working in his flower garden.

Mr. A. F. Thiele is an expert culturist. He was a regular attendant at fruitgrowers' conferences, and his talks on practical matters affecting fruitgrowing were always listened to intently. Many growers picked up valuable hints from popular Fred Thiele.

Another old identity in the same district is Mr. John Petty, a pioneer grower, who has rendered good service to the industry. Older pioneers recall the vigor of his speeches when contentious matters were before conferences.

### PERSONAL.

Hon. J. G. B. McDonald, M.L.A., of Shepparton (fruitgrower), who was Minister for Water Supply and Electrical Undertakings in the Dunstan Government in Victoria has now been elected leader of the Country Party. Congratulations to this vigorous fighter for the rights of primary producers.

### APPLE AND PEAR EXPORT.

**Australia to Ship 1,500,000 Cases.**

Notification has been received from the Australian Apple and Pear Marketing Board that the British Ministry has placed an order for the shipment of 1,500,000 bushels of Apples from Australia in the 1946 season, at a nominated price.

The allocation to the several States is in proportion to the four-year pre-war average, and the quantities are approximately as follows:—Tasmania, 900,000 cases; Western Australia, 262,500; Victoria, 187,500; South Australia, 120,000; N.S.W., 22,500; Queensland, 7,500.

The standard to be fancy or extra fancy, sizes 2¼in. to 2¾in.

In 1945 the Apple export to the United Kingdom totalled 250,000 cases.

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It is reported that a substantial sale of S. Aust. Apples has been made to Sweden by the Trade Commissioner, Sir Charles McCann.

Sir Charles also confirmed that the Argentine had become a considerable producer of Apples and had developed a good trade with Sweden.

### EXPORT FROM NEW ZEALAND.

**Estimated at 500,000 Bushels of Apples and Pears.**

**Government Purchase Likely.**

THERE ARE PROSPECTS of an export of about 500,000 cases of fruit during the coming season stated Mr. A. C. Ward, the Hawke's Bay Fruitgrowers' Association representative on the N.Z. Fruit

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Marketing Council. Hawke's Bay's share would be about 100,000 cases, and Nelson 400,000.

Mr. Ward said that so far there was nothing definite about export, but prospects were bright. At first shipments did not appear likely, but it now seemes that shipping would be available. It remained for the Marketing Council to ascertain what the terms would be. **He did not think there would be a reversion to pre-war conditions under which the industry would handle its own export.** Instead the N.Z. Government would take over the fruit as a bulk purchase as it was doing with all other primary products.

If a quantity of fruit were exported it should place the industry on a better financial footing as a big proportion of the export fruit would be taken out of the mid-season varieties. If they received a price on which they could break even or a little better they would be placed in a much better position.—Orchardist of N.Z.

# Crop Reports

### SEVERE HAILSTORM IN TASMANIA.

One of the worst hailstorms ever experienced swept over portions of southern Tasmania on November 18th, inflicting severe damage to orchards and gardens. An anticipated crop of 7,000,000 bushels of Apples has been reduced by 1,000,000 bushels. Damage was most severe in the Huon Valley.

Places which suffered most damage were part of Huonville, Cradoc, Lower Wattle Grove, Castle Forbes Bay, Shipwright's Point, Franklin, South Franklin, Glenderie, Waterloo, Braeside and thereabouts.

There was only minor damage in the Channel, but New Norfolk suffered severely.

Mr. E. Norris, of Lower Wattle Gully, has a 70 acre orchard, and normally picks 40,000 cases. His loss is fully 75 per cent. of the crop.

In round figures, the damage is estimated at £250,000.

**Compensation to be Sought.**

The Minister for Agriculture in Tasmania (Mr. Madden) announced in Parliament that a departmental survey of the recent hail damage was being made and Commonwealth assistance would be sought on behalf of growers who had suffered loss.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Preliminary indications favour a large crop of Apples, and a medium one of Pears.

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**Cudlee Creek.**—Trees are looking well on the 115 acre orchard of Mr. F. F. Redden. There is a cool store on the property, of 11,000 case capacity. Spraying is attended to by means of the stationary system, centrally controlled, the spray material being delivered through underground pipes, connected with hoses at most suitable places.


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### NEW ZEALAND.

**Good Fruit Season Anticipated.**

Reports received early in November indicated a good crop of Apples, and most other fruits at Nelson, Hawke's Bay and other orchard centres in New Zealand.

Frosts damaged the stone and small fruits at Marlborough.

At Hawke's Bay Apples and stone fruits are showing for a heavy crop. Only some varieties of Pears are heavy. A frost caused much damage to early Plums and Peaches.

### WEST AUSTRALIAN FRUIT CROP.

**1. Apples.**

Flowering of all varieties of Apples was much later than usual and there was a considerable variation amongst the same varieties in the same districts. Those orchards that were sprayed with Red Oil in the winter, made an even flowering up to 10 days ahead of unsprayed trees. The actual flowering itself was greatly extended and there were many Apple trees when I visited the South West last week, that still had some flowers despite the fact that the first set fruits were approximately 1 in. in diameter.

Between these extremes all stages from freshly set to older fruits were to be found. It appears that the weather conditions were responsible for the delayed flowering and it can be pointed out that the winter rainfall was extensively heavy. At the same time average temperatures were low but there were not the same cold snaps as are experienced in normal years.

Delayed foliation was common on almost all types of trees. As far as the actual setting is concerned the crop does not promise to be a heavy one. Preliminary surveys suggest that it will be comparatively light but by no means should it prove a failure. With most varieties, trees that carried heavy crops last year are carrying poor crops this year and vice versa. The most consistent variety appears to be Jonathans but they are also patchy in some districts. Growers expected from the full flowering, that a bumper crop would be on the trees and there is considerable disappointment that it did not eventuate. The present crop should be between 1,000,000 and 1,250,000 bushels.

Cleopatras have set lighter than normally and in some cases Yates as well. Except in the Great Southern Dunns have set light to moderate crops; in the Great Southern they appear to be much heavier. Some damage has been caused by the incidence of Looper particularly in those orchards that were not sprayed.

**2. Pears.**

As far as Pear varieties are concerned, the heaviest appear to be Keiffers and then Packhams. Bartletts, though carrying a good crop are not as heavy as last year. Other varieties such as Comice, Winter Nelis, Glou Morceau and B. Bosc are relatively light.

**3. Stone Fruit.**

Stone fruit generally is not heavy. Peaches in all districts have set only light to medium crops. Apricots in some districts are also only light Plums on the other hand are consistently good. Nectarines are light.—H. R. POWELL, Superintendent of Horticulture, Perth, W.A.

# Seasonable Orchard Notes

## FREQUENCY OF SUMMER IRRIGATION.

## CONSIDER WEATHER CHANGES.

(By J. T. Fitzpatrick, Soils Irrigation Extension Service, Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, N.S.W.)

AS SPRING PASSES to summer and the weather gets hotter, trees—as a result of their vigorous growth—require more water more often. Trees and vines must be supplied with this water or else wilting occurs. We must be able to recognise the two types of wilting that are found in orchards.

"Temporary wilting," which is seen during a hot, dry day, but which vanishes during the night, is not harmful to trees and vines. "Permanent wilting," on the other hand, means a definite lack of moisture in the soil, and the plant remains in a wilted condition until water is supplied to it. Where permanent wilting occurs, the plant does not recover in a humid atmosphere (that is, overnight) and will suffer severe damage if this wilting is allowed to continue.

This helps to decide on the irrigation frequency in summer: the point where trees wilt is the lowest level to which soils should be allowed to dry out. In practice, the irrigator aims to water his crop before the trees reach this wilted condition. How does the irrigator know when water is needed before the trees actually show wilting? Probably his main guide is his past experience, telling him, by the look of the orchard, that the trees need water.

### Evaporation Interval.

At the Research Station, a method used to determine irrigation frequency depends on weather conditions. From an open tank 3 feet in diameter, the loss of water due to evaporation is measured each day. When, by adding up the daily losses, a total of 4 inches of water has evaporated, it is considered that the trees require an irrigation.

By the cumulative evaporation chart a good estimate of when to water can be made. As would be expected, in spring and autumn evaporation is low and it may take 30 days or more for a total of 4 inches to evaporate. Consequently irrigations are spaced far apart.

**In mid-January evaporation is at its peak and the intervals between irrigations are short.**

Too many irrigations in spring when the soil is loose and permeable and trees are not taking up water very quickly, may lead to a high water-table lasting throughout the season. In autumn, over-frequent irrigations put the soil in a wet condition for winter, leaving no margin in case of a wet season.

### Soil Auger Needed.

The most practical method, for determining when an irrigation is necessary, is by **the use of a soil auger.** Even with our knowledge of evaporation intervals over the season, we must still use the soil auger as a final check on soil moisture. After a little experience with an auger, the irrigator soon learns to tell how long the soil moisture will last before another irrigation is necessary.

During early November — trees, particularly deciduous trees and vines, are at their fastest rate of growth, and irrigations are necessary to keep this growth at its best. At present the Department of Agriculture is conducting experiments on the growth of peaches as influenced by soil moisture. This promises to be an extremely important piece of work, giving information on what happens to tree and fruit when the soil gets dry.

From now until mid-summer, the number of days between irrigations will decrease until mid-January, when we find crops require water every 10 or 12 days. Again, the best guide will be soil auger tests down to two feet.

### Area of Soil Wetted.

The area of surface soil wetted during an irrigation is closely tied up with irrigation frequencies.

The first spring waterings are given on a soil made permeable by the winter cover crop and lack of cultivation, and the trees are not growing very fast, so irrigators aim at light waterings at this stage. This can be done by combining large flows with a small amount of the surface being wetted, such as using only two furrows per bay or watering alternate bays.

As the season proceeds, more furrows are used to supply the necessary water to meet the higher demands of the tree. With mature trees, even using 6-8 furrows per bay, little more than half the bay area will be wetted, It will depend on the farmer to see that sufficient water is being applied to keep his trees going. Up to early January, provided penetration has not been reduced too drastically, furrows down the bay should be able to provide the necessary amount of water to the trees.

### Irrigating Citrus.

On a number of M.I.A. soils, the soakage rate falls off quite markedly throughout the season, particularly if cultivations and traffic have been heavy. To overcome this in mid-summer some citrus growers give one or two quick irrigations in the tree zone. They know that, although penetration is slow down the bay, there is a small area under the trees which takes up water very quickly. Only a few minutes with the water on this area will give a penetration sufficient to wet the root zone. If this increased water is applied by cross furrows or controlled flooding, constant supervision is necessary to avoid the dangers of over-watering around the tree. Where trees suffer from Phytophthora root rot, no attempt should be made to apply this extra water; it should be necessary with healthy trees only once or twice during the hottest part of the season.

Many deciduous fruit growers water the whole area throughout the season, often unnecessarily. Generally, sufficient water can be applied by furrows up to the last few critical weeks at the sizing up of stone fruits when flooding may be justified. Again, the auger will tell the irrigator the best time to change over to the new watering practice.

**Once the crop is picked, irrigations are still essential to lay the foundations for the next year's crop,** but these irrigations should be light and the area that is wetted should be reduced where possible. Much of the damage done by the wet winter of 1942 was due to heavy waterings in the preceding autumn.

While we concentrate on wetting only the root zone and avoid over-watering, we must not go to other extreme and underwater. For success in irrigation we need to obtain two important features: one, the realistic approach to the crop's water requirements; the other, the soil auger.

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Stencils on Application.

## CHEMICAL CONTROL OF FRUIT DEVELOPMENT.

DURING THE LAST few years a great deal of attention has been paid to the so-called plant-growth substances. Some have been isolated from plants and most have been shown to be organic acids, like naphthalene acetic acid, which stimulate plant growth by increasing the volume of the cells. Many attempts have been made to control the development of the fruit by treatment with these substances.

The three critical phases in the life of a fruit to be considered in this connection are pollination and fertilization,

What is Known in England as the "June drop"; and the fall of the mature fruit. Recent work by Lewis

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at the John Innes Horticultural Institution has shown that the effect of plant-growth substances on these phases depend partly on the type of fruit and partly on the type of abscission leading to the fall of flower or fruit. The natural initiation of fruit formation is by means of pollination and fertilization. This stimulus can, however, be supplied by the use of growth substances alone in the case of many-seeded fruits, but not in that of fruits of one or few seeds. Flower fall and "Summer drop" which are brought about by a layer of rapidly dividing cells in the stalk, are not affected. Abscission not preceded by rapid cell division which causes the withering of the style and the dropping of the mature fruit can be prevented or delayed by treatment.

The action of these substances on the first critical phase, pollination, suggests their practical application in the production of early Tomatoes and in increasing yields of fruit from pollen-sterile plants. For most plants pollination is necessary to initiate fruit development. In winter the Tomato plant forms no pollen, but if the flowers are sprayed with a very weak solution of naphthalene acetic acid early fruit can be produced without pollination. The treatment is also successful with other plants whose fruits contain many seeds. By similar treatment Swarbrick at Long Ashton Research Station has increased the yield of a variety of Strawberry which is pollen sterile. Treatment is not effective with types of fruit which have one or few seeds, such as Apples, Pears and stone fruits; for these, only natural pollination has been found to initiate fruit growth effectively.

The second criticial phase, the "Summer drop," does not occur with all fruits, but in the case of Apples, Pears and Plums it is very important. In the early summer many of the half-formed fruits drop from the tree, causing serious loss in some years. Unfortunately, for the reasons given above, treatment with plant-growth substances does not prevent the dropping of the fruit in this phase.

In the third critical phase, when the mature fruit is ready to fall, treatment with plant-growth substances is effective. Most varieties of Apples remain on the tree even after the best picking time has passed, but with certain varieties fruits tend to fall two or three weeks before they are ripe. The varieties most affected are MacIntosh in the United States and Worcester Pearmain in Great Britain. Gardner working in America found that spraying the fruits with a solution of a plant-growth substance delays their fall by as much as three weeks. Fruit growers may now find it profitable to use these substances in the form of a spray or dust to ensure against losses by premature falling. (M.S.N.)

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Prospects are good for the Coming Season . . There're always the Blokes who don't spray.
Codling

Quarter of a million annually is lost by Australian Orchardists through the activities of Codling. You can beat the Codling with a comprehensive summer spray programme using Lead Arsenate with Gargoyle WHITE Spraying Oil —the Oil destroys the eggs while the Lead will kill the grubs

## A TIMELY WARNING TO ALL ORCHARDISTS

As a result of relentless spraying, your orchard may be comparatively free of Codling to-day, but do not get the idea you can now afford to let-up. Many a grub-free crop at mid-December has become a liability by picking time.

You must be ready to give combat to the Xmas Flight of moths. There will be no blossoms or Calyces after Xmas—the eggs will be laid direct on the fruit. The weather can be expected to be warm to hot—live crawlers in about 4 days.

Watch for the moths. Hang up lures if necessary, then go after the eggs with a spray gun loaded with Gargoyle White Spraying. The addition of arsenate at this time is practically a waste. Use a straight oil spray (1 to 80) and make sure every part of the tree is dripping wet. Remember, every egg smothered at this stage means 20 less moths next season.

VACUUM QUALITY PRODUCT

GARGOYLE WHITE SPRAYING OIL

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INCORPORATED IN AUSTRALIA


### REGISTRATION OF MANUFACTURERS OF FRUIT PULPS, FRUIT JUICES AND PURE FRUIT ESSENCES.

The Chairman of the Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee states that his Committee was now compiling a list of manufacturers of fruit pulps, fruit juices and pure fruit essences for its use in connection with the 1945 fruit season's operations.

Manufacturers who propose to claim on the committee for domestic sugar rebate and who purchase fruit pulps, fruit juices of pure fruit essences will qualify for the rebate only if such purchases are made from manufacturers of fruit pulps, fruit juices and pure fruit essences who are on the Committee's approved list for 1946.

Any manufacturer of fruit pulps, fruit juices and pure fruit essences who desire to be listed should lodge his application not later than 21st December, 1945 with the Chairman, Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee, Care Trade and Customs, Department, Canberra, A.C.T.

## ANOTHER NEW INSECTICIDE.

DETAILS have now been released of a new insecticide, known as .gammexane, which is in certain respects superior even to DDT, described in MSN of April last (No. 4, 1945).

The story started more than a hundred years ago when Michael Faraday discovered benzene hexa-chloride, a substance with the chemical formula $C_6H_6Cl_6$, or 666 for short.

In 1934 British research chemists and biologists commenced a systematic investigation of thousands of different substances in the hope of finding insecticides as effective as pyrethrins and rotenone, the active principles of pyrethrum and derris respectively. In 1942 it was found that benzene hexachloride was highly effective against the Turnip flea beetle, then the subject of detailed investigation. Field trials confirmed laboratory results, and in the spring and summer of 1943 this substance was used to replace derris in flea beetle powder. **Hundreds of tons of powder were sold and proved as effective as derris.**

Certain inconsistencies in the action of 666 led to a most interesting discovery. Ordinary methods of preparing benzene hexachloride give a product which is a mixture of four different forms of the compound. These differ only in the arrangement of the chlorine atoms about the carbon-hydrogen skeleton of the benzene molecule. The four isomers, as they are called, are known as the alpha, beta, gamma, and delta forms. Investigation of the separate isomers showed that the insecticidal properties were practically confined to the gamma isomer, or gammexane, which forms about 10 per cent. of crude 666. Pure gammexane is therefore roughly ten times as active as crude 666.

Gammexane is highly toxic to most insects and to certain other pests. Towards some of these it is several times as deadly as DDT. Like DDT it is not a "knockdown" poison, but acts slowly over a period of hours. Its toxicity towards animals is, however, so low that it can safely be used on a large scale. There appears to be little or no danger to human beings in its use, but with all new insecticides it is necessary to watch carefully for any effect on the skin.

Among the pests killed by gammexane may be mentioned the following:—Locust, cockroach, body louse, bed bug, blossom weevil, grain weevil, ants, house flies and mosquitoes. Locusts are so susceptible that an experimental swarm was accidentally killed by merely sieving crude 666 in the same room. So persistent was the action that breeding could not be resumed until the room was redecorated. Trials in North Africa suggest that effective locust control can be undertaken with this substance. One ounce of gammexane, or half a pound of 666, per acre will destroy mosquito larvæ.

The stability of gammexane ensures prolonged action. Being insoluble in water it is not leached away by rain. It is therefore suitable for use as a soil insecticide and its high toxicity towards wireworm, which causes immense destruction to crops annually, makes it likely that this pest too may be controlled.

Gammenxane will also be particularly useful against Apple blossom weevil, but great care will be necessary in the spraying of fruit trees as, like other insecticides, it is toxic to honey bees.

Conservation of grain supplies is of particular importance at the present time. The low toxicity of gammexane makes it very probable that grain weevil, which destroys thousands of tons of stored grain every year, can be destroyed without harming the grain itself. Even when gammexane is mixed with the grain in quantities considerably greater than that required to destroy the weevils, bread made from the grain is apparently harmless. (M.S.N.).

# Fruitgrowing in Tasmania

### APPLE AND PEAR GROWING ON THE EAST TAMAR.

(By Our Travelling Correspondent.)

FRUIT GROWING on the East Tamar in the Northern Tasmania, commenced about 1903, and Mr. J. S. Ritchie, of Bayview Orchard was the first to ship Apples from the district to England. The Hillwood estate of 1,500 acres was sub-divided by C. J. W. Booth into 30 to 35 acre blocks, of which 10 to 20 acres were commonly planted out in orchards.

Among the first growers who still remain were A. E. and F. B. Jacques, Ben Hall, Saunders, R. B. Miller, G. C. Dodery, A. Corsom and A. B. Curran.

Mr. Curran planted his property in 1912 and his Apples have frequently topped the English market. The secret of that, he states, apart from quality and attractive packing, was dispatching large quantities together. He always made a point of having more fruit ready than his allotted shipping space required and so was frequently able to take advantage of space that was found to be available at the last moment. Large, strong lines are listed first in catalogue and often make the best prices.

10,000 Bushels off 20 acres is Mr. Curran's average yield. Cleos, Jonathans and Sturmers are his first favorites. Sturmers which comprise such a large proportion of the Tasmanian crop are given only second grade rating at 2/3d. a bush. under Acquisition as against 3/3d. for varieties rated first grade. They were ever popular on the English markets, though never on the mainland.

Coxes and Dunns being off croppers are not favoured, and Worcesters, which are early though indifferent croppers, were grown solely to catch the early boats.

Picking of Cleos starts about the 18th February, and by making four to five pickings half as much again is harvested than would be the case if the crop were taken off at once.

Winter Cole Pears are picked weekly,working down from the top of the trees as the crop ripens. Other Pears grown include Josephines, Buerre Bosc, Williams and Glou Morceau—the latter throughout Northern Tasmania is found to be the most susceptible to black spot.

To insure adequate cross pollination Apples are planted in not more than four rows of the same variety, and Pears in not more than two rows. An arrangement that is also found convenient for picking and spraying. Long rows, unlike short blocks, save much turning.

Cuprox is highly recommended as a fungicide, and it is followed by a lime sulphur spray in the pink, then two lime-sulphur-Arsenate spraying in the calyx stage. The fifth spray is Arsenate and the final is white oil alone.

**Planting An Orchard.**

Though Pears stand closer planting, Twenty feet on the triangle is favoured for Apples, and wider for preference.

Mr. Curran considers the ideal orchard soil is deep aluvial with a good clay sub-soil. To prepare the land for planting deep ploughing is advised and allowing it to be in the rough for some months, then liming and six weeks later smoothing and pegging out. Drainage is an absolute essential for fruit trees and pipe drains should be installed where necessary.

If replanting himself, Mr. Curran would stipulate Democrats, Granny Smith, Delicious and Croftons — the latter he finds improve with age.

Lupins, Peas, Rape, Mustard and Crimson Clover are all favourite cover crops and wool dross is used to encourage growth. Mr. Curran emphatically recommends the rotary hoe. Ploughing he maintains is wholly unnecessary and a cultivator is held sufficient for breaknig the hard sole pan the hoe tends to develop.

## HIGHLY MECHANISED TAMAR VALLEY ORCHARD.

Mr. C. L. Medwin, of Highfield Orchards, Tamar Valley, Northern Tasmania, whose property, close by historic Windemere church, is on the east bank of the Tamar, commanding magnificent panoramic views across the water of winding bays and rugged ranges, has been one of the largest growers in the North of the Island, marketing 25,000 bushels per annum. Mr. Medwin strongly believes in mechanising the orchard and packing shed, and although a great lover of a good Clydesdale, uses tractors to speed up general cultivation, and when an overhead spraying plant has been installed will have dispensed with horses altogether.

**Conveyor Tables.**

Roller conveyor tables have been found of inestimable value in the packing shed. Light in themselves they may be readily placed where required and make quick work of shifting and loading.


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The Canadian type case (18 x 11½ x 10½), is emphatically preferred and these are usually knocked up during the winter, large stocks being normally held for thorough seasoning.

**Rotary Bin Grader.**

The twelve bin Harvey rotary grader, with an overhead roller box conveyor, is a feature of the shed; the twelve bins ensuring minute classification, and bags for small and culls further expediting selection.

A Delco electric generator supplies power for house and plant. Water is syphoned at the rate of 500 gallons per hour from a dam with a superlative tree clad catchment area.

**Cultivation.**

A Petty plough is used and recommended, it throws the soil well up to the trees, or gets in just as close as desired. A rotary hoe is particularly valued for a small patch of twitch. This implement chaffs the herbage and thus makes it readily available as plant food for the soil. New Zealand Blue Lupins are grown as a cover crop; they are wonderful nitrogen soil replenishers. After ploughing pasture harrows are used as smoothers to facilitate the progress of the sprayers.

**Spraying.**

A Ronaldson-Tippett rubber tyred spray pump is used at a pressure of 360 lbs. Bordeaux is used as a fungicide and a 6-4 application is made in the green tip, except in the case of tender varieties such as Dunns.

The remainder of the spraying programme is divided into four sections. The first is a 1 in 20 lime and Sulphur applied on the pink, then two calyx sprays of 1 in 60 lime sulphur, or a 2 lb. 6 oz. coloidal sulphur to 100 gallons arsenate. In the third section if black spot is not showing sulphur is omitted. Fourthly, three sprayings of Arsenate of Lead and White Oil are applied. Pest control is effective only when spraying is thorough and well timed for the district and the particular varieties.

**Phenomenal Setting.**

The setting of Apples is very heavy in Northern Tasmania this season though Pears are rather light. In this orchard the setting of Apples, especially is phenomenal and the healthy appearance of the foliage is notable. Sturmers particularly look like a record crop.

Comice Pears, for which Mr. Medwin in pre-war days often secured 15/- a tray in England, are showing well, likewise Winter Coles, Buerre Bosc and Packhams. Glou Morceau, which bore heavily last season, are somewhat lighter set.

**Varieties for Future Markets.**

Mr. Medwin, asked by Mr. H. A. Turner, the Dept. of Agric.'s Horticultural Officer, Launceston, what varieties of Apples he would recommend a young man planting these days, mentioned Jonathans, Delicious, Croftons, Sturmers, Granny Smiths, Worcesters, and a few Democrats and Gravensteins.

(To be Continued.)


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89 per cent. Mineral Oil. Package, 44 Gal., 4 Gal.

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50 per cent. Sulphur, Weight for Weight. Package, Cases, 8 x 5 lb. Jars.

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# TASMANIA

**Severe Hailstorm in Huon Valley—Otherwise Good Apple Crops, Pears Fair—Continuance of Empire Preference Necessary — Higher Prices Needed for Berry Fruits and Acquired Apples and Pears.**

(By Our Correspondent.)

Hobart (21/11/45).

WEATHER CONDITIONS during the past month in the north have remained rather dry, and in most orchards the work is well in hand. Most of the better class orchards are being well looked after, both as regards spraying and cultivation, and in most districts there is promise of a good crop. The Winkleigh district, unfortunately, has suffered from frost damage.

**Severe Hailstorm.**

In the southern districts dry weather has continued till November 18th, when heavy thunder storms (in many districts accompanied by severe hail), broke up the dry spell. The damage done in some localities is very severe, and will alter the prospects of a heavy crop considerably, as some of the most productive districts got it worst. As far as it is possible to estimate, the setting of the various varieties, Gravenstein appear to be heavy enough to require thinning; W.P.M., fair; Cox's Orange, heavy; Jon., average setting; Cleo., heavy; T.P., patchy; Geeveston Fannies, heavy; S.P.M., light; Sturmer, good average; G. Smith, heavy in most places; Democrats, light, with few exceptions.

Pears appear to be a fair average. Packhams seem to have set well; Winter Cole's patchy, Comice fair, Josephine's fair. In some localities touched by hail the damaged fruit can be thinned out, and leave a good unblemished crop, but where the storm was most severe, the bulk of the crop will only be fit for factory use.

So far black spot has not developed to any extent, but the recent thundery weather may start it. Canary fly and codling moth were not as bad as in 1945, as the previous season, and now that labour is becoming more plentiful, the improvement in that respect should be maintained. Summer oil is becoming more generally used, both for Red Spider and Moth.

Influenza in a bad form has been prevalent in Tasmania this spring, and delayed work considerably. Most of the victims remained unwell for weeks after the initial attack, and there were a considerable number of pneumonia cases.

The shipment of 76,000 cases of Apples late this season turned out very well, and appears to have given general satisfaction.

**Empire Preference?**

Considerable alarm is evident throughout the fruit trade at the probable revision of Empire preference. It is realised that America can supply increased quantities of Apples if the preference is lowered or removed. Australia should be able to consume considerably more, and probably would if distributing charges were brought down. The cost to the consumer, even pre-war, was too high, while the grower received too little.

TASMANIA—(Continued).

**Berry Fruit Prices.**

It has been officially announced that the price for berry fruits will not be increased this season, and growers are very disappointed. Costs have increased, and pickers' wages and conditions have improved entirely at the expense of the grower, many of the larger growers who depend entirely on outside help are considering reducing their areas, as there is no incentive to produce crops unless they can get a reasonable profit. Under present conditions they are not getting enough for their work and risk, and to raise the price to the consumer would restrict the demand of necessity.

Disappointment is felt by Apple and Pear growers at the Government's decision not to allow higher compensation for the 1946 crop. Under present conditions, with ever rising costs, the compensation paid is too low.

Orchard properties are changing hands, but not at high figures. Several returned men have bought orchards in the south, but the best are rarely for sale.

The State Fruit Board is advocating extending inspection of fruit for export to the packing sheds, as it is felt that if inspectors called in any odd time and saw how the fruit was being put up, it would be a more comprehensive inspection, and the standard would improve in every respect. This, of course, would be additional, and not instead of inspection on the wharf.

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**TASMANIAN STATE FRUIT BOARD.**

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At a meeting of the Tasmanian State Fruit Board on November 8th. satisfactory reports were received from the Agent-General regarding the condition and quality of Tasmanian Apples arriving in London.

It was decided to send three representatives to the Interstate Conference of Fruitgrowers at Melbourne on December 5th.

In order to have a permanent display of Tasmanian fruit in London, it was decided to send to Australia House models of 17 export varieties of Apples, and six of Pears, also a model of an Australian Apple orchard.

With regard to the acquisition of the 1946 crop of Tasmanian Apples and Pears, regret was expressed that there was no increase on the 1945 prices. It was resolved to draw the attention of the Minister for Agriculture to the Board's representations for an increase.

# Empire's Largest Cannery

To the Editor Fruit World,
Dear Sir,

May I enter a mild and friendly demurrer about the claim made in your article in the issue of 5th November, 1945, for the "Blue Ribbon" as the biggest cannery in the Empire for the Shepparton organisation. While yielding to no one in our admiration of the success that Shepparton and other Goulburn Valley canneries have achieved, we think it is time that the claims of Leeton as a contender for the Empire title should be placed before the public.

Apparently Leeton has been hiding its light under a very thick bushel. Taking the test of tonnage processed as a guide, Leeton is easily first. Against 17,000 tons of fruit and vegetables processed and packed at Shepparton last year—as set out in your article—Leeton can point to 19,000 during the same period, and to an even greater tonnage processed and packed during the previous year. This proves no fluke. Of course the heavy tonnage of the Leeton Co-operative Cannery Ltd., during the last few years has been in a great measure due to the district's war-effort.

Taking this supreme test we suggest that Leeton is so far ahead of all its Australian competitors that a spectator would be pardoned for thinking that the others were taking part in the next event on the programme.

That this is no idle boast can be proved in many ways. I take two examples. It is on record that up to about the middle of 1944 the Leeton Cannery had supplied 75 per cent. of the whole of the canned and dehydrated vegetables forwarded to the front line troops from Australia up to that time. A second example goes back to an even earlier date. In the dark desperate days of the early campaigns, about the time of the Bataan Peninsula, there were many occasions when the recent Wewak food-shortage could have been paralleled—not only in the case of our own troops, but our allies as well— but for obvious reasons nothing was publicly stated about them. During one of such crises the Australian canning organisations received a telegram couched in something like the following language from Food Control:—

"PLEASE ADVISE QUANTITY CANNED VEGETABLES YOU CAN ARRANGE DESPATCH NEW GUINEA PER S.S..... SAILING..... INST."

The Leeton Co-operative Cannery Ltd., was able to forward on that occasion no less than 14,000 cases. All the Federal authorities could obtain from the rest of New South Wales canneries was about 500 cases all told.

This extraordinary result was brought about by the fact that the Leeton Cannery Organisation, under its General Manager, was alive to the fact that the national position was desperate, and immediately it received the S.O.S. call from Food Control it swung into action and organised an Advisory Committee, which functioned until V.P. Day, and the district growers responded in such a wonderful manner to the call that the production of canned vegetables jumped ahead tremendously in a very short time. We claim that in speaking of "Blue Ribbons" the Leeton organisation should get a special one for this remarkable effort.

In bringing this matter under public notice I want to be fair. The man whose organising ability and tremendous drive made this effort possible was Mr. H. J. Williams, the General Manager of the Leeton Co-operative Cannery Limited, who functioned as chairman of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas National Vegetable-growing Advisory Committee. It was his enthusiasm that whipped up the growers on the producing-front, and at the same time kept a huge volunteer scratch staff of workers going week after week and month after month working long hours with never a sign of industrial trouble.

Shepparton people, please take notice! Mr. H. J. Williams served his apprenticeship and learned his business in the Shepparton district, and we are indebted to the Goulburn Valley for a great hearted citizen, who is neither a Victorian nor a New South Welshman now, but first, last and all the time an Australian—courageous dynamic and very efficient. It is only right that, in placing this matter before the public, credit should be given where credit is justly due. A man in the position of "H. J." as he is familiarly known in the district, occupies a position where he gets many more kicks than bouquets.

I might add in conclusion that he knows nothing of this communication to you. If he did, he would surely veto it. You see, he still has a broad streak of that well-known Victorian modesty in his composition.

Yours faithfully,
M.I. AREAS.


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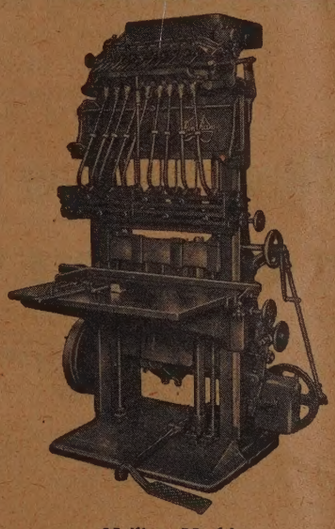

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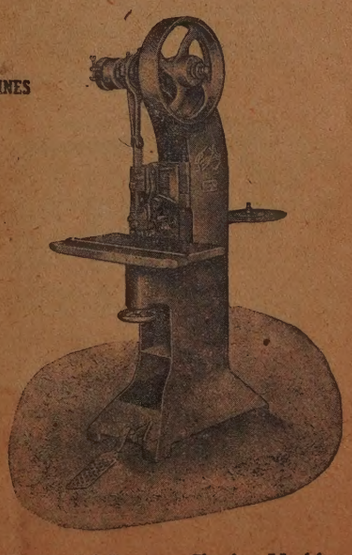

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### Triton Construction First in the Field.

Many Thousand Triton pre-fabricated huts have been erected throughout the Commonwealth in recent years. Blueprints and detailed directions for nailing and screwing made assembly so simple and speedy that they greatly appealed to primary producers for providing improved accommodation for labour.

Now, with materials and skilled labour still generally in short supply, the same plan for self assembly has been extended to full scale pre-fabricated homes. Eighteen months have been spent by the Company on experimentation in combining attractive design with a method of construction within the ambit of semi-skilled labour.

All the craftsmanship of building is done in the factory and the various units or sections are so designed to "go" only right, so that common sense instead of skilled tradesmanship is all that is needed for their erection.

Model A, which contains five rooms, takes four men two and a half days to assemble. Speed and sound construction are the essentials, and great care has been taken to meet all Municipal Building specifications. The Company takes care of all transport problems and charges and insures against all risks from factory to site.

The walls constructed with fibrocement sheets on timber frames and are 9 ft. high. They are erected on 4 in. x 4 in. vertical stumps and 9 ft. 6 in. x 1½ in. sole plates. Ample window space is provided. Windows are 3 ft. 4 in. x 2 ft. 10 in. and open out casement style, and are fitted with attractive catches and horizontally glazed. Interior fly-screws are provided as required. Floors are tongued and grooved kiln dried hardwood. Roofs are corrugated fibrocement sheets or galvanised iron as preferred.

Sleep-outs, 12 ft. 6 in. x 12 ft. 6 in., designed to harmonise, provide for later extension and may be added without spoiling the general effect. Already too many gil-guys mar the Australian landscape, and bear witness not only to the pitfalls of amateur designing and lack of taste, but to the hazards of impractical construction.

Incidentally, it is suggested that all wood-work and facings be painted off white and doors cherry-red.

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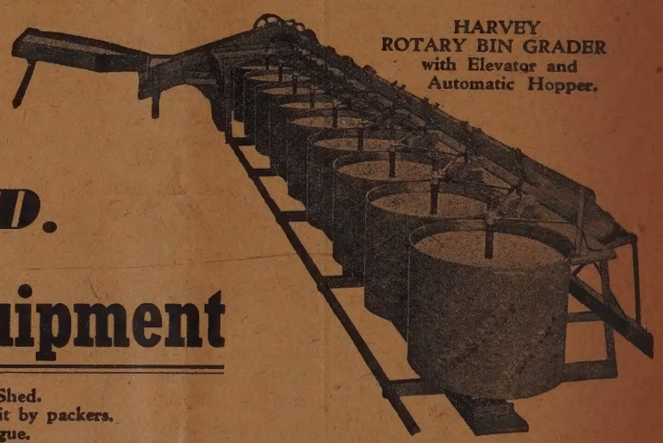

HARVEY ROTARY BIN GRADER with Elevator and Automatic Hopper.

Made in sizes to suit the Small Grower and the Largest Packing Shed.
Rotary Bins considerably increase the average daily output. No pawing of fruit by packers.
Stem punctures and bruises eliminated. Write for catalogue.

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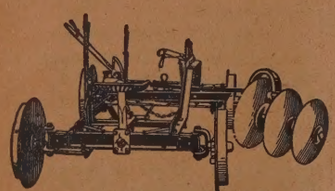

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**Southern Tasmania—Wm. Crosby & Coy. Pty. Ltd., Collins St., Hobart.**
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# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS AND NOTES

**Official Reports and Notes of the South Australian Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association.**

## South Australian Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association Incorp.

**Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held in the New Market Board Room on Friday November 30th, 1945.**

MR. A. R. Martin, President of the Association presided over the meeting which was attended by the following Committmen: Messrs. H. B. Robson, G. H. Schultz, J. B. Randell, O. Esselbach, J. Turner, L. J. Wicks, C. L. Winser, W. J. Bishop, R. B. Pritchard, S. H. Edwards, W. Wye, R. A. Cramond, K. R. James, C. Ridley, L. B. Pfeiffer, C. J. Willsmore, N. T. Hobbs, A. D. McAllan, A. Stuart (Secretary).

Prior to the opening of the meeting, members stood in silence for one minute to honour the memory of members who had paid the supreme sacrifice during the war.

Apologies were received from Messrs. A. G. Strickland (Chief Horticulturist), F. A. Halliday and C. J. Pitt.

The minutes of the October meeting as reported in the "Fruit World" were confirmed.

**Correspondence.**

A letter received from the Department of Agriculture in reference to tests carried out with Oil Sprays on Sultana Vines to avoid Frost damage.

The Geraldton Tomato Growers' Association wrote asking for a copy of the Association rules.

On the motion of Messrs. Randall and Shultz it was decided to forward a copy to the Geraldton Association.

The Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee forwarded a list of the minimum prices nominated by the Committee in respect of fresh fruit purchases by processors in connection with the 1946 fruit processing Season. The prices are as follows:—

| Variety. | For Canning. | For Non-Canning. |
|---|---|---|
| Gooseberries | 2½ per lb. | 2½ per lb. |
| Strawberries | 7½ „ „ | 6½ „ „ |
| Black Currants | 4½ „ „ | 4½ „ „ |
| Loganberries | 4 „ „ | 3½ „ „ |
| Raspberries | 5½ „ „ | 4 „ „ |
| Kentish Cherries | 3¾ „ „ | 3¼ „ „ |
| Red Currants | 3¾ „ „ | 3¾ „ „ |

| | Per Long Ton. | At Metro Factory. | At Country Factory. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Apricots | 17 | 15 | 14 |
| Peaches—Clingstone Clear Centres | 16 | 12 | 11 |
| Other | 15 | 12 | 11 |
| Peaches—Freestone | 12/10/– | 12 | 11 |
| Pears—Bartlett | 15 | — | — |
| Plums | 10 | 10 | 9 |
| Quinces | 10 | 9 | 8 |

Delivery terms associated with these minimum prices remain unchanged.

A list of last years members and a copy of circular distributed to all growers in the area was forwarded from the S.E. Potato Growers' Association.

A letter from the South Australian Invalid Club appealing for assistance in gifts of Fruit, etc., was read to the meeting. On the motion of Messrs. Winser and Pritchard it was decided that the Association appeal to members to donate Fruit and Vegetables to the Club, same to be deposited at the Society's Selling Floor, which would be collected by the Club on the afternoon of December 14th.

The Correspondence as read was adopted.

**Post-War Marketing.**

The matter of Post-war marketing was discussed, and it was decided on the motion of Messrs. Bishop and Pritchard that a meeting of the Chairmen of the various Sections and Branches be called for 2 p.m. on Friday, December 7th to discuss the matter.

**Sectional and Branch Reports.**

**Society:** Mr. Bishop reported that the Society was experiencing great difficulty in procuring Manures for Growers. For some years the supply has been totally inadequate for gardeners requirements, and this year the position has been most seriously aggravated. The new building was nearing completion, and hopes were entertained of moving into these premises very shortly. The Society were prepared to act as Agents for Cherry Growers and circulars were sent out to growers containing this information.

Moved Mr. Bishop, seconded Mr. Edwards "That this Association once again draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the desperate need for Manures to aid growers to continue production."—Carried

**Cherry Section.**

Mr. Bishop reported that the Annual meeting of the section had been held, and from reports received the early districts would have the lightest crop for years, whilst the later districts were experiencing trouble with disease. The quantities of fruit available would be inadequate for Factory supplies.

**Apple and Pear Section.**

Mr. Winser reported that the Commonwealth Government had invited growers to export Apples overseas, and South Australia had been allotted a quota. An Interstate conference of growers would be held in Melbourne next week, and the Association would be represented. The section had also made a donation to the "Food for Britain Appeal."

**Celery Section.**

Mr. Martin said that the season had finished, and growers were busy at present preparing Seed beds for next season. A welcome home dinner had been given Mr. Farnham (a former committeeman) who had been a prisoner of war for 3½ years. The Section had also made a donation to the "Food for Britain Appeal."

Several representatives of sections intimated that their sections would make a donation to the appeal, and it was decided on the motion of Messrs. Ridley and Pfeiffer "That the various sections and branches be circularised with a view to contributing to the appeal, and that the first instalment forwarded next week.

**Citrus Section.**

Mr. Esselbach reported that one of the factories would be closing down for the season shortly.

**Stone Fruit Section.**

Mr. Stuart reported that the Annual meeting would be held next week. He suggested that the Rationing Commission be written to, enquiring whether special ration would be available this year for sugar for Jam.

**Tomato Section.**

Mr. Stuart said that the season was in full swing, and that the export figures at present were fairly high.

**Vegetable Section.**

A meeting of the Committee had been held, and a report of the Melbourne Conference was in possession of each of the Committeemen reported Mr. Martin.

**Kersbrook Branch.**

Mr. Edwards said that from observations the damage from hail was more serious than at first thought, and the crops would be considerably lighter than at first estimated.

**Gumeracha Branch.**

Mr. Randell reported that in his District the fruit position was very good and the outlook for the season was excellent.

**Onkaparinga Branch.**

Mr. Pfeiffer reported that late planting was progressing and the late rains has assisted growers.

**Financial Statement.**

The Secretary's financial statement was submitted to the meeting and approved.

**General Business.**

Mr. Stuart reported that he been invited to visit Barmera on 13th December with the object of meeting growers in that District. He was of the opinion that other Executive Officers should also attend this meeting, and it was decided on the motion of Mesrs. Esselbach and Robons, that Messrs. Martin and Bishop should accompany Mr. Stuart.

On the motions of Messrs. Hobbs and Turner a motion carried at a previous meeting "That the December meeting be held on Friday 21st December, in lieu of Friday 28th December" was rescinded. Mr. Pfeiffer then moved "That the matter of calling a meeting in December be left in the hands of the Chairman and Secretary." This was seconded by Mr. Cramond and carried.

There being no further business offering the Chairman closed the meeting and took the opportunity of wishing members the compliments of the Season.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

**Gumeracha (6/11/45).**

Present indications point to quite a good crop of most varieties of Apples. A number of growers state that Rome Beauty is very light to almost nothing; this, too, in some orchards that last year had no crop, owing to frost damage completely destroying the fruit soon after petal fall. In the writer's orchard Delicious seems to have failed to set, although it is rather early to say quite definitely that this variety will be a complete failure, appearances at the moment are that this variety will be from light to very light. In the main the blossoming has been very full, and setting is good to heavy. Trees are looking healthy, and there is a gratifying absence of any indication of disease.

Pears (which are not extensively grown in this district) are in the main nice and clean, and the crop is from light to medium.

Plums, the same remarks apply to this fruit as to Pears; they are not extensively grown, and the prevalence of silver leaf has considerably reduced the number of trees during recent years.

Recent good soaking rains have materially improved the outlook for the trees during the summer; until these came, most growers were of the opinion that the trees were in for a bad time, following on the drought of last season, and the absence of good soaking winter rain.

In most cases seasonal work is well in hand; a number have used cresylic acid spray on part of their orchards in order that they may better look after the balance of their crop, manpower shortage being still a major problem, and one that may be increasingly difficult when harvesting operations commence.—J. B. Randell.

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A. STUART, Secretary,
F. & M.G. Society Ltd.

# Mr. F. J. Garford

**London Representative of Southern Victoria Pear Packing Co. Revisits Australia.**

Mr. F. J. Garford, London Representative of the Southern Victoria Pear Packing Co., of Blackburn, Vic., is in Australia for a brief period for consultation with the executives of the Company. He is looking forward to a resumption of the export trade from Australia.

Mr. Garford states that for a long period England has been very short of fruit. No Pineapples or Bananas have been imported since 1940. Oranges were imported, however, mainly from Spain and South Africa, and some from Palestine. Last year Apples were imported from Canada and U.S.A. All fruit importation is controlled by the British Ministry of Food, and is distributed to the public through the wholesale and retail trade.

Since his return to Victoria, Mr. Garford has observed that many of the "unwanted" varieties of Pears have been worked over to more popular varieties. He states that British people definitely favour the Packham's Triumph Pear, other popular varieties being Josephine and Winter Nelis. Large areas have been planted to Pears in England, particularly the Conference variety.

Apples were sold at controlled prices through the war: there were three groups (1) Bag Apples for processing, £14 per ton; (2) Culinary, £37/6/8 to £42 per ton (retail 8d. per lb.); and (3) Desserts, i.e., Laxton's Superb and C.O.P., £74/13/4 per ton (retail 1/- per lb.).

Pears (group 1) 1¾ in. and under, 4d. per lb.; (group 2), main lines, 8d. per lb.; and (group 3), Comice, 1/- per lb.

There were variations according to period and delivery areas.

The wholesale per-ton prices just quoted were for the naked fruit at the orchards—purchasers had to provide their own containers or pay the growers if they provide them.

Mr. Garford says that much-bombed London is gradually taking shape again; there is a shortage of labour and materials. He states that throughout the war the morale of the British people was high.

## VICTORIAN FRUIT GROWERS' COUNCIL.

There was an attendance of 20 delegates at a meeting of the Victorian Fruitgrowers' Council on November 29, Mr. D. W. Lechte presiding.

**Victorian Fruit Marketing Association:** It was decided to fulfil the request of the V.F.M.A. for a conference at a date to be fixed early in the New Year.

**Interstate Conference:** Full consideration was given to the items to come before the Interstate Conference on December 5. It was decided to submit plans for a growers' organisation as drawn up by Mr. G. W. Brown, Mr. K. V. Eagle and Mr. F. C. Pyke.

**Gippsland Fruit Marketing Association:** It was noted that Mr. W. H. Carne had resigned as secretary of the G.F.M.A., the new secretary being Mr. P. Deveney.

## APPLE AND PEAR GROWERS.

**Interstate Conference, Melbourne, December 5.**

To deal with many important matters affecting the Apple and Pear Industry, an Interstate Conference is being held at Melbourne commencing on December 5, 1945. The following delegates were appointed:—

**N.S.W.:** Messrs. W. B. Pascoe, H. V. Smith, A. C. Enticnap, M.L.A.

**Tasmania:** Messrs. T. G. Thompson, R. H. Thompson, J. R. Abel.

**Victoria:** Messrs. D. W. Lechte, G. W. Brown, V. A. H. Clark.

**S. Aust.:** Messrs. C. L. Winser, M. J. Vickers, A. Stuart.

**W. Aust.:** Messrs. G. Parke, E. Hester, H. W. Soothill.

**Queensland:** Messrs. G. G. Fry, D. G. L. Dow, B. Flewell-Smith.

In attendance, representatives of the Commonwealth Dept. of Commerce, State Government Depts. of Agriculture and the Australian Apple and Pear Marketing Board.

The agenda paper shows items for discussion, including the setting up of an Australian Council of Apple and Pear Growers for Australian trade and export; request for poll of growers before reviving the Australian Apple and Pear Board; disbandment of the present Aust. Apple and Pear Council; prices control; retention of Empire Preference; reciprocal Apple trade with U.S.A.; funds for publicity; tree variety census; the fruit case question; packing for export in registered sheds, etc.


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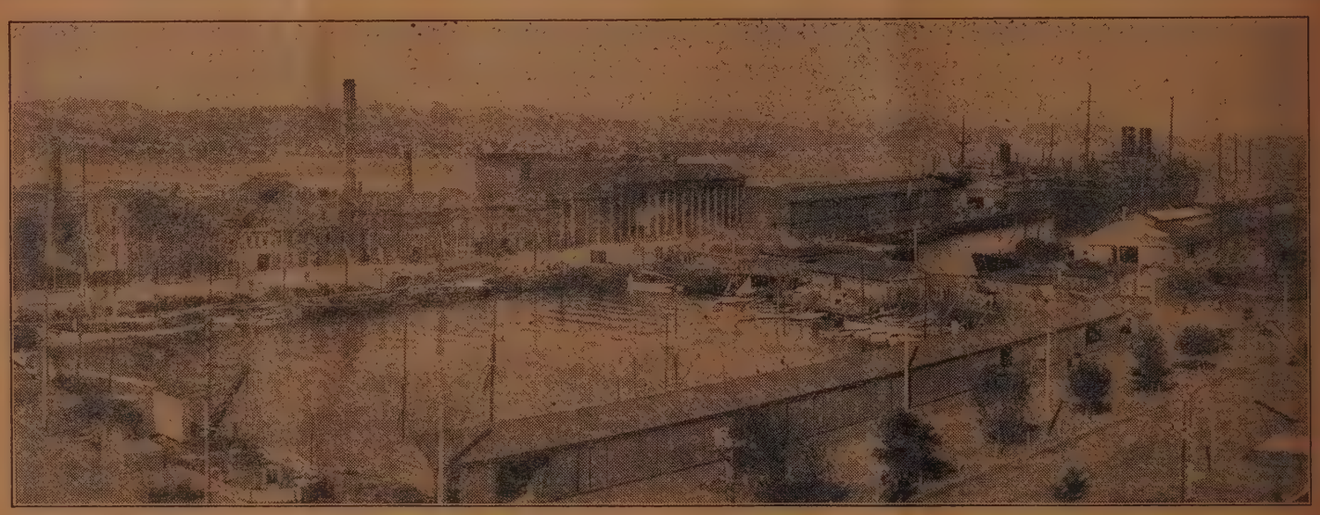

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# Western Australia.

DISTRICT NOTES — CROP REPORTS.
(By Our Correspondent.)

ORANGES have been plentiful, with a strong demand for counts of 84 to 140 to the bushel at the maximum rate, although smaller grades were easier. Apples have been meeting with a ready sale at Board prices, and Passion-fruit and Cape Gooseberries have been realising excellent figures. Lemons are plentiful, Loquats have been moving well, and Strawberries have been in demand at a good figure. The first Cherries have made their appearance, realising 3/2d. a punnet in the market. Tomatoes are abundant, but many are of inferior quality. As the price of these is no longer controlled, the previous quote of 21/- a case has jumped to from 35/- to 47/6 a case, and retailers have been getting up to 2/6 a lb.

The President of the Fruit and Vegetable Retail Buyers' Protection Association (Mr. T. Haughton) considers that the lifting of the price control on Tomatoes will be prejudicial rather than beneficial to retailers, but there is little doubt that when local supplies begin to come on the market, prices will drop considerably.

A seasonal increase of wholesale Orange prices has been brought into effect, and retail prices now range from 1/4 per dozen (240's) to 2/9 a dozen (112's).

Although not long ago there was a shortage of Lettuce, there is now a glut, and market supplies have been far in excess of demand. On one market day between 300 and 400 crates remained unsold at the conclusion of business.

Preliminary survey of the fruit prospects in the Albany district show that a good-to-heavy crop of Apples and Pears may be expected. However, some trees are suffering from the effects of an excessively wet winter, and it may take some long time to correct these troubles.

Figures recently released show that from early in 1942 until the cessation of hostilities no less than 35,952 cases of Apples, Pears and citrus fruits; 1,426,481 lbs. of stone and other fruits; 16,871,896 lbs. of Potatoes; 194,073 lbs. of Sweet Potatoes; 1,261,222 lbs. of Onions; 35,506 cases of Tomatoes; and 7,165,092 lbs. of vegetables were supplied by local producers to the Department of the Navy.

It has also recently been revealed by the State Auditor-General that among outstanding amounts for assistance to industries is the sum of £5,868 to growers of Bananas in the North-West.

Although it was expected that a fair quantity of fruit would go to waste in the near future owing to the lack of cases, there is now the possibility that white wood cases may be brought from Sweden as back-loading in ships taking food to Europe. If these cases do come to hand, it is thought that growers will have to pack some percentage of their crops in their own sheds, as under such conditions the central sheds are unlikely to be in the position to handle all the fruit required.

**Fewer Vegetables Needed.**

Mr. H. D. Mountjoy, Secretary of the Market Gardeners' Association of W.A., said, on his return from the recent Melbourne Conference of Vegetable Growers, that a substantial scaling-down of wartime production of fresh vegetables would now be necessary. Figures quoted by Mr. Mountjoy show that while local vegetable acreage during the years 1934 to 1939 averaged 4,898, this increased in 1942-43 to 7,261 acres, in 1943-44 to 10,375 (9,277 harvested), and in 1944-45 to 9,312 acres (planned to be sown).

**Dehydrated Vegetables.**

While some vegetable growers are of the opinion that dehydration will take care of crops, the fact that the dehydration factory at Donnybrook has received a message from Melbourne advising that dehydration of Potatoes will not be carried out in W.A., effectively disposes of that hope. Donnybrook works is at present processing Cabbage, and will not be able to obtain another product until March, which will mean the closing down of the plant for some three months, and the consequent unemployment of some 50 persons. £3,000 has just been spent on the installation of a modern effluent plant at this works, and the management is confident that, once the company gets over the initial transition period from a war to a peace economy, there will be enough lines available to keep the factory working all the year round.

**The Potato Industry.**

Potato growing industry is another which is faced with problems due to the wartime-peacetime change over. W.A. Potato Growers' Association has appointed a full-time secretary and organiser, and recently the following decisions were made: That the Association strongly favours a system of marketing control; that the Government should guarantee a minimum price, and that growers should receive the actual price for each sale between the minimum and maximum price; that a Federal co-ordinating authority should be established consisting of Government and growers' representatives; that the Association should appoint the growers' representatives; that distribution should be undertaken by a co-operative company, shareholders to be growers, with two-thirds shares, and country agents primary merchants; that such company be registered under Federal law; that acreages and deliveries be controlled under statutory powers; that a Federal committee work out a scheme for conferring with growers' organisations, and that it be presented to growers for acceptance.

Donnybrook Potato Growers' Association considers that where acreage is reduced, preference be given to (a) British landowners growing on their own property and returned soldiers; (b) leaseholders who are natural born British subjects and naturalised aliens; and (c) other aliens.

Mr. G. M. Dash, Assistant Potato Controller in the Department of Supply and Shipping, recently made a brief visit to the West in connection with the opening of the Potato export season.

Mr. R. M. Carter, State Superintendent of the Apple and Pear Marketing Board, has been making a visit to the North-West of this State.

Messrs. H. S. Bickford (chairman), E. H. Rosman (secretary), and C. A. Sharman, G. E. Stone and G. M. Edgecombe, of the W.A. Dried Fruits Board, recently returned to Perth after attending the interstate conference in Melbourne.

Mr. C. P. Mathea, Deputy Prices Commissioner, has issued a warning to retailers that prices officers are checking both at the market and retail end, and that drastic action will be taken where "cheaper prices are not being passed on to the public."

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

**Karragullen (10/11/45).**

After last season's very heavy crop, a moderate crop was expected in the Karragullen-Pickering Brook districts. Some of the Granny Smith's, which bore heavily last season in the older orchards, did not develop fruit buds, but the Grannies that actually blossomed well did not set satisfactorily. In addition, quite a high percentage of the Apples are mis-shapen. The Yates flowered well, but the setting is less than half a crop. Some Jonathans have a reasonable crop, but the majority are practically a failure. Cleos. are light, Democrats fairly good, Doherty mainly light, although some are satisfactory. Dunn's are light.

An odd orchardist reports a satisfactory crop. On the whole, the crop is the lightest for at least 15 years, and it is doubtful if the crop will be 40 per cent. of a normal one.

Bartlett Pears are lighter than usual, although they are patchy. Some are very heavy, and others very light in the same orchard. There should be a reasonable pack-out, however. Blister mite was responsible for some damage to the buds.

**Post-War Problems.**

Regarding post-war marketing of Apples and Pears, probably the ma-


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jority of growers in this district favour some control, whereby growers will be able to obtain a reasonable price for their product. It is recognised that prices cannot be fixed unless the marketing is regulated in an orderly manner.

Although acquisition has served a most useful purpose, it is high time that growers are encouraged to put up a better pack, and receive the benefit of it. In other words, there should be a premium for efficiency, instead of all growers receiving the same price for different sizes and qualities (Fancy and Extra Fancy) of any particular variety. It is to be hoped that this principle is introduced under the 1946 Acquisition Scheme. Our branch association is pressing hard for its adoption. — H. J. Price, Illawarra Orchard Ltd.

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**Mount Barker.**—This district generally is now a three-way one—fruit, wool and fat lambs and dairying—with every prospect of being a baby beef centre, too, as some of the settlers have been having some remarkable results in this line.

Despite the war and shortage of labour, settlers here have made great efforts to keep their properties from going back, and when labour becomes available again, will reap the benefits of years of more than hard toil, although what might be classed as capital improvements (i.e., fences, buildings, etc.) are much below par.

All here are in good heart. The local co-op. has almost doubled its cold storage capacity, and built in Kendenup a large and up-to-date packing shed.

W.A. claims to have had more men per head of rural population in the services than other States, and the Great Southern and S.W. Districts claim to have the biggest average in this State, and all are looking forward to the return of their boys, but, unfortunately, a rather large number are missing P.O.W. from Singapore.

If the world returns to sanity, this end of Australia should be as good, if not better, than anywhere else, in which to live a quiet, normal, hard working and prosperous life.—J. McN. Martin.

**Mt. Barker Show.**—After being in recess during the war years, the Mt. Barker Agricultural Society conducted a highly successful show on November 3rd. The President, Mr. T. Skinner, introduced Hon. A. F. Watts, M.L.A. (Leader of the Opposition), who opened the show. There were sections for merino sheep, British sheep, fat sheep, wool, horses, farm produce, fruit, flowers, women's industries, etc.

In the fruit section there were classes for plates and cases of Granny Smith, Democrat, Doherty, Yates and other Apples, prizes being won by A. A. Steicke, Wright & Sons, Miss I, Carr, J. Carr; packers, T. Toome, E. M. Bunker. For Cape Gooseberries, Passion-fruit, etc., the prize winners included W. G. Haines and H. Steicke.


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| L. FRANZEN & SON | 68 | L. J. McCAUSLAND | 90 | E. E. WANLESS | 88 |
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# Goulburn Valley News and Notes

(By Our Correspondent.)

EMPIRE PREFERENCE — FRUIT GROWERS UNEASY.

The Australian Canning Fruit Growers' Association is so anxious about the threatened breakdown of Empire Preference, that at their recent annual meeting it was suggested that a delegate be sent to London to present their viewpoint.

Some years ago, Mr. W. Young, Secretary of the Association, represented the industry with marked success, and it is apparent that he would be the logical first choice for the suggested London representation.

As preference represents £7/10/- per ton on canning fruit, it is obvious that if the price to growers were to be cut in half through withdrawal of preference, the economical repercussions would be disastrous, not only to those directly engaged in the fruit industry, but to trade and commerce generally.

It was stated at the meeting, that the main activities of the Association during the past year, have been directed towards post-war reconstruction and Empire preference.

**Too much stress cannot be laid on the question as it will be vital to the industry in future years, and a foundation must be laid down now before it is too late.**

In a very short time we shall again have to export 60 per cent. of our pack, and this will be impossible without preference or subsidies in order to compete with a dumped surplus from foreign countries.

**Demand for Canned Fruits.**

Reporting to the annual meeting of the Australian Canning Fruitgrower Association at Shepparton. The Secretary (Mr. W. Young) stated that every canner has clear floors and a great civilian demand is unsatisfied. In the Goulburn Valley much of the fruit could not be brought up to size last season owing to shortage of water. This reduced the size of the pack in all varieties.

Mr. Young reported that the Australian canned fruit pack in 1945 was 2,080,554 cases of two dozen cases 30 oz. cans compared with 2,307,914 in 1944, 2,082,554 in 1943, 2,125,042 in 1942, and 3,030,928 in 1938. The Californian total in 1938 was 12,995,565, and in 1944 21,770,439.

**Fruit Industry Award.**

Mr. Young further stated that the Australian Workers' Union had twice applied to the Court for a variation of the award. The new dispute includes claims for increased rates of pay: many new respondents were cited. It had been decided that the Court had no jurisdiction to vary the existing award.

**Kyabram Cannery Profit.**

Net profit of Kyabram Co-operative Fruit Preserving Co. Ltd., is £10,163. A five per cent. dividend absorbing £4,777 has already been paid out of profits.

Provision has been made for £10,279 depreciation, and £10,163 for taxation. A credit balance of £20,609 is being carried forward.

In their report, the directors state that "the result of the year's operations has not, in the opinion of the directors, been materially affected by items of an abnormal nature, other than conditions arising as a result of the war.

During the year production was maintained at a high level and turnover again constituted a record.

Supplies were mostly for the fighting forces and it was impossible to satisfy civilian requirements.

The additions to the buildings materially facilitated the handling of the pack. Work to complete the programme is now in hand.

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# Kyabram and District Orchards — Tatura Tongala

**Market Varieties Popular.**

**Cultivation and Pest Control Methods.**

(By Our Travelling Correspondent.)

AS one moves along the Goulburn Valley, having left Shepparton, Mooroopna, Ardmona and Toolamba behind, and pass through Tatura, Merrigum, Lancaster, Kyabram, and Tongala, it is noted that the orchards are more scattered and, though the same varieties are planted, and the same methods of cultivation and pest control are used, the emphasis is gradually shifting the further you go. In Shepparton canning varieties are all the vogue, chemical bands are the popular means of codling moth control, and cover crops and deep and thorough cultivation are firmly believed in; but once past Toolamba and you find dessert and export varieties are equally popular as canning sorts, white oil and arsenate of lead sprays are confidently relied on for fighting the codling, and the turning in of the natural herbage and light tillage are all the cultivation considered necessary.

**Tatura.**

There is no cannery as yet at Tatura, though the Rosella Company have bought twenty acres of land on the railway with a view to erecting one in the near future. Market varieties of fruit are largely grown, and it is a grand Pear district, and out at Dhurringile is found some of

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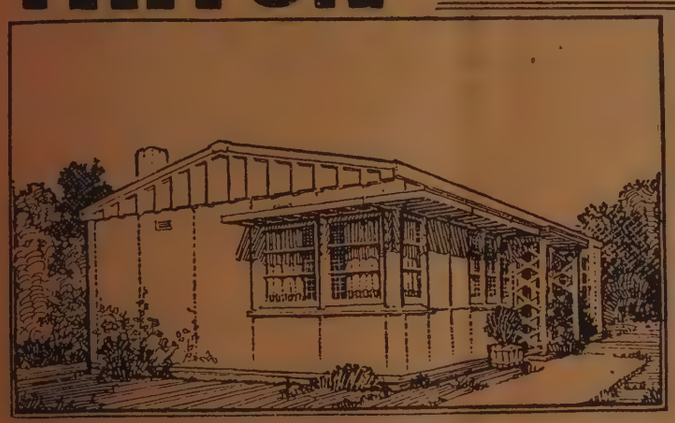

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the richest Tomato land in the country; 1,400 cases to the acre being a common yield.

Orchards were mainly planted here after 1912, and the first growers were John Pigdon, D. C. Morrison, and, after the war, Messrs. Pickworth, Stewart, Harry and Murray Simpson, Ward, J. G. Rose and O. Young.

Manpower has been very short in recent years, though many farmers from drought stricken areas worked in the district last season.

### Merrigum.

Amongst the pioneers of this district may be listed the names of Manly, Croll, Pitts, Greenwood, Ratcliffe and Foster. In 1920 the Merrigum Fruitgrowers' Association was formed and Mr. S. Youlden, the present secretary, was its first secretary, and Mr. E. F. Pitts its first president. One of the Association's main objects was to get a cannery established in the district and this was achieved in 1922, when the Kyabram Co-operative commenced operations. Mr. E. F. Pitts deserves a great deal of credit in this respect; his untiring efforts as secretary of the committee formed to obtain a cannery are still spoken of with appreciation in the district.

In Merrigum the average orchard block is between 40 and 50 acres, though there are larger holdings, Mr. S. Goulden's, for example, being 110 acres. The slightly heavier nature of the soil is said to impart an excellent carrying quality to the fruit, and makes the district, particularly suitable to the production of export and mid-season Pears. Although Williams Pears are extensively grown for canning, approximately an equal quantity of Josephine and Packhams are produced, and large cool stores are shortly to be erected to hold them. Likewise although Trevatt Apricots are grown, the district differs from Shepparton and Ardmona in favouring Tiltons which, though apt to run small, carry better.

Sub-soiling and cover crops are not favoured in this district; in a dry year sowing a cover crop is something of a gamble. Once they are established, it is maintained, the natural grasses serve the purpose just as well; they are turned in and the soil lightly tilled. Deep cultivation once every five years is considered ample.

Land Army Girls are credited with doing a fine job in this district during the war and the growers, though dubious at first, were eager to re-engage them after the first season.

### Kyabram.

The old Kyvalley Association became in 1923 the nucleus of the Kyabram Fruit Growers' Association, which has been flourishing ever since, Monthly meetings are held and lectures are arranged.

Prominent among the early growers were the Messrs. Bedford, Dickson, Deans, W. Roberts, F. Norris, Noble, T. Olle and W. Allen. Kyabram orchards were mainly planted from 1912 onwards and many English emigrants settled here on 35 to 40 acre blocks. When the growers returned after the last war they proceeded to plant the varieties that had been suitable to the pre-war markets and, by the time they were in bearing, found that there were better prospects for canning sorts.

Mr. F. J. Churches was the first president of Kyabram, and his strenuous fights for the soldier settlers are still recalled. His son, Mr. Len Churches is the present president, and Mr. Geo. Markham has been secretary since the inception of the Association. He probably holds the record for an Association office bearer in the Valley, his only possible rival being Mr. W. F. Cooper, the president of Lancaster. At Kyabram meeting the members are called on to impart their ideas and observations to the meeting and much useful information and many brainwaves are thus disseminated.

Tilton Apricots are general favourites, and Williams Pears, and in Peaches Pullars, Golden Queen and Thiele's Cling. Golden Queen are preferred by many to Pullars, which are claimed to be too late and inclined to clash with the Pear harvest. Even good sized fruit have been obtained from Golden Queens by halving the laterals and thinning out the crop twice—the thinnings being despatched to the fresh fruit markets when practicable.

Peas, barley and oats are occasionally sown as covercrops, but, as a general rule, the growth of wild millet is encouraged—by applications of super-phosphate when available—and this is turned in with the off-set disc. Tillage is favoured rather than ploughing. It is maintained that with frequent, deep cultivations there is a danger of washing essential trace minerals out of the soil with subsequent irrigations.

The soil has a very low salt content and gypsum as a source of calcium, and to counteract any tendency the soil may have to pack, is preferred to lime which kills salt. The gypsum is applied by shovel in the autumn and left for the winter rains to wash into the soil.

### District Orchard Supervisor.

Mr. F. Bullock, the District Orchard Supervisor, is a very popular lecturer at Kyabram meetings, and his influence is apparent throughout the area. Thanks to his insistent efforts, codling moth has been kept well within bounds, many growers reducing losses to 2.8 per cent. and less. Their success in turn has enlightened the tardy. For codling moth control he advocated thorough—very thorough—initial sprays with white oil and arsenate of lead. Three such sprayings; two calyx and one following, have in all instances been satisfactory.

Black Peach aphis is not unknown in the district, and Mr. Bullock's advice is to soak the trees for one hour in nicotine solution before planting.

Crinoline bands are recommended for trapping root borers, which are more prevalent in the Tongala district. The idea that it is only likely to be present in soil previously planted to trees is something of a fallacy.

For the Oriental Peach moth there is as yet no effective control. It is hoped that D.D.T. will be of value.

### Tongala.

Among the first fruitgrowers at Tongala about the time of World War I were Messrs. Taylor, Burbury, Makin, Guinney and Capt. Sim. Citrus and Sultanas were extensively planted. Citrus have proved with few ex-

(Continued on page 17.)


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# Reports from Shepparton

(By Our Special Correspondent.)

A recent survey of the district by interested officials reveals the fact that the final crop report is as follows:—

Late varieties of Pears, with the exception of Packham's, very light, and that a heavy drop occurred in this variety, but still left reasonably good crop.

The estimate for the canning variety of W.B.C.'s is overall about 75 per cent. of a normal crop.

Moorpark, Mansfield, Hemskirk Apricots dropped badly, leaving a very light crop, but in most cases, Shipley and Tiltons are heavy, and thinning out of these varieties is now being carried out.

Not much irrigating has been done to date, owing to several useful rains of recent weeks, most orchards are well cultivated, and preparations being made to irrigate the Pears after the next spray (the third) which should be completed next week.

Dry mix lime sulphur is being used extensively on varieties of Peaches, such as Levis, Golden Queen and Sims as a preventive for rust.

Both green and black aphis are still causing a good deal of trouble, but will disappear with the first hot winds.

As the first brood of codling moth will soon be reaching maturity, growers have been advised that tree banding must be completed not later than the third week in November.

**S. J. Perry & Co.'s Pear Contract.**—The contract offered by S. J. Perry & Co. for the purchase of Pears was accepted by growers at a recent meeting of the Shepparton Fruitgrowers' Association. The prices offered are the same as last year for late Pears, and 6d. a case less for W.B.C.'s, the reduction being made because of the difficulty of handling and marketing this variety in large quantities, and a possible drop in values.

The company will accept all the late Pears offering, and will take 90,000 cases of W.B.C.'s. The clause enabling the company to make additional payments should favourable sales be made, will operate again this year.

**Canning Fruits.**—It has been officially announced that the price for canning fruit will be the same as last year, and it is expected that the canned product will be in good demand.

**D.D.T.**—Several experimental plots for testing out D.D.T. for the control of codling and peach moth, have been established in the district. These experiments are being carried out under the supervision of officers of the Department of Agriculture.

An item of interest to orchardists and market gardeners is the announcement that Messrs. Ramsay & Treganowan are marketing an I.C.I. product in the form of a weed killer known as Atlacide. It is claimed to be non-poisonous to ground and water, and will eradicate such weeds as Paspalum, Couch Grass, Johnson Grass, etc. Applications should be made in the approaching dormant stage of these weeds about May, the chemical being carried down to the roots through absorption through the leaves.

If as effective and economical as claimed, this should prove a boon in keeping irrigation channels and drains clean, also headlands which are breeding grounds for pests.

**Labour Position.**—Once again organised camps of public school boys will supply labour for picking the Apricot crop. Arrangements have already been made between the Shepparton Fruitgrowers' Association and the organisers of the boys.

This form of labour has been carried out successfully over the past war years. Permanent buildings were erected in the first place by the growers on a voluntary basis, water supply and sewerage being installed. The camp organisers (school teachers doing the job voluntarily as a war effort) in charge, make all the necessary arrangements re provisioning and cooking, and selecting the requisite number and class of boy required.

With regard to labour for the Pears and Peaches, nothing is definite at present, the position being aggravated by the fact that manpower has no power to direct labour as in the past few years.

The President of the Shepparton Fruitgrowers said at a general meeting held recently, that the district was facing one of the worst prospects for labour for many years.

The four district Welcome Home Committees, namely, Orrvale, Shepparton East, Grahamvale and Lemnos, are busy arranging a series of functions to welcome home returned servicemen and P.O.W.'s, over a hundred enlisting from the orchard area.

The Shepparton Fruitgrowers' Association has donated £50 to this fund, and also a very substantial sum specially for prisoners of war. The first function is to be held early in December.

ceptions to be short lived in the Goulburn Valley, and the short drying season made the handling of dried fruits an uneconomical proposition. Many unsuitable varieties of fruit trees, including freestone Peaches, were at first planted. The blocks today range from 50 to 100 acres.

In 1943, Mr. D. Barry-Wood, the Secretary of the Tongala District Fruitgrowers' Association, built a modern dehydrating plant, which processed 600 tons of fresh fruit in the 1944 to 1945 season. This fruit was below canning size and would otherwise have been wasted. Shortage of labour has been a restricting factor, at times the Northern Dairy Co.'s cool store has been utilised to hold the fruit. Co-operative and organised marketing is looked on as the only sane basis of operations.


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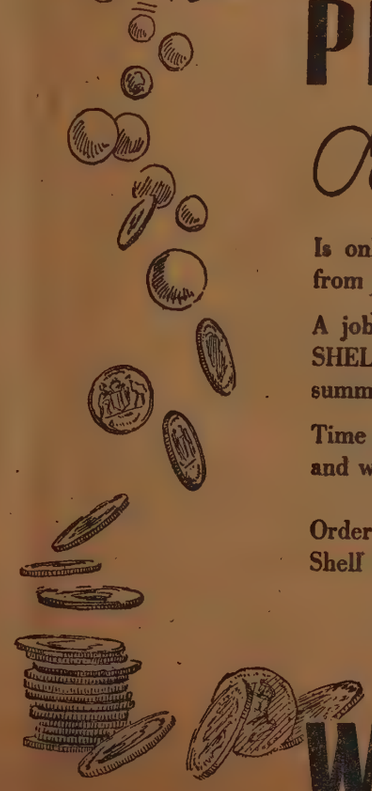

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# Queensland News and Notes

AMENDING THE FRUIT MARKETING ORGANIZATION ACT — STANTHORPE APPLE CROP LIGHT TO MEDIUM — PINEAPPLES — BANANAS — TOMATOES — CITRUS AND VEGETABLES.

On November 22nd the State Parliament gave consideration to the first reading of a Bill to amend the "Fruit Marketing Organization Acts, 1923/1941." The Bill was founded mainly on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Fruit and Vegetables.

The main features of the Bill are:—

1.—Provision for the formation of a Vegetable Group Committee which will look after the interests of vegetable growers throughout the State.

2.—Placing the C.O.D. on a permanent basis by the cancellation of the provisions of the "Fruit Marketing Organisation Acts" by which a ballot can be held at periods of five years on the question of the extension of the life of the Organisation.

3.—An extension of the term "marketing" to include canning, cold storage and ripening of fruit and vegetables.

4.—An extension from two to three years of the appointment of the personnel of the C.O.D. Executive.

5.—The addition of a consumers' representative to the C.O.D. executive.

6.—Power for the Government by Order in Council to direct the C.O.D. to establish retail and/or wholesale branches in any part of Queensland.

7.—Giving power to the Organisation to bring or defend actions on behalf of growers so that the test actions concerning growers' rights generally may be fought for their benefit.

8.—The exclusion of the C.O.D. from the operations of the "Farm Produce Agents Act" to enable the C.O.D. to direct to other markets consignments to any of its Branches which are over-supplied.

During the month new Associations were registered under the "Fruit Marketing Organisation Acts" at Gunalda and at Home Hill in North Queensland, where the newly registered Association is known as the North Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association.

### North Queensland.

A shortage of most classes of fruit, particularly citrus, was felt all through November, but the Cairns position was partly relieved by an excellent crop of Roughleaf Pineapples in the Cape Tribulation and Daintree River districts North of Cairns, and at Cardwell. A feature of the Daintree pines was the number of Roughs packing 15 and 18 to the case—very large fruit for this variety.

Townsville was also relieved by the Roughleaf crop at Magnetic Island

Northern Bananas, produced mainly in the Cardwell and Murray Upper districts, were practically sufficient to meet local demands.

There was a hold-up in the construction of the Banana ripening rooms and cool rooms at the C.O.D. Branch at Townsville on account of shortage of material, but it is anticipated that these will be operating early in the New Year. During the month, two small cool rooms were established at the Bowen Branch of the C.O.D. where they will operate in conjunction with the retail establishments.

Cairns reports showers up to 1½ inches in some of the vegetable growing districts, which should assist in an extension of the vegetable season. It is anticipated that there will be sufficient Beans, Cabbage, Cucumbers, Sweet Potatoes, Rhubarb, Lettuce, Beetroot, Carrots and Pumpkins to meet all requirements to the end of December.

The Bowen mango crop was late, and the small quantities marketed early met an abnormally strong demand.

### Central Queensland.

The Yarwun Tomato season has drawn to a close, but the district railed substantial quantities of Papaws and Rock Melons to the various Queensland markets and to the South.

### South Queensland.

**Stanthorpe.**—Crop prospects for the coming season are of a mixed nature. Reports indicate that grapes will be the heaviest crop, Apricots and Peaches light, Plums medium, and Apples varying mainly according to variety from extremely light to medium. Only in rare instances have orchardists reported anything approaching a normal crop.

Persistent dry conditions, broken only by from 1 inch to 1½ inches of rain in the middle of the month, are being reflected in a lower vegetable production so far as compared with normal seasons. Vegetable planting has been held up, but most growers are awaiting only good soaking rain to plant up to capacity.

Early in November the Deputy Chairman (Mr. H. S. Franks) and General Manager (Mr. B. Flewell-Smith) of the C.O.D. visited Stanthorpe district and attended a series of five meetings of growers. These meetings give growers an opportunity to meet their chief executive officers, and enable them to gain much information regarding the functioning of their Organisation and its plans for future development. Mr. Franks and Mr. Flewell-Smith reported that the meetings had been highly successful.

The Deciduous Sectional Group Committee's proposals to test the practicability of railing both fruit and vegetables in refrigeration wagons to the far North of Queensland have been advanced a further stage. When arrangements have been finalised growers will be notified of the full details of the project. Future development in that direction will be governed by the results achieved.

Despite the virtual failure of the Redland Bay Tomato crop, Interstate loading of Tomatoes to the end of November amounted to 716,000 cases, almost 100,000 cases in excess of the corresponding loadings of the previous year. Given reasonable climatic conditions, it is anticipated that production of Tomatoes, particularly in the winter and Spring, will be substantially increased.

Early in November the Sunnybank district, a large producer of vegetables and fruits such as Papaws, Custard Apples and Figs, suffered very serious damage from hail. Sunnybank produces practically all the Figs in the State, and nearly the whole of the crop was destroyed. Papaws were, of course, an easy prey to the hail, and both fruit and trees were smashed. A portion of the green fruit was satisfactorily placed with canneries for purposes such as chutney.

Bananas.—Although Bananas have been in relatively plentiful supply for some months, growers' returns have been very favourably affected by the almost complete absence of most other fruit on the market.


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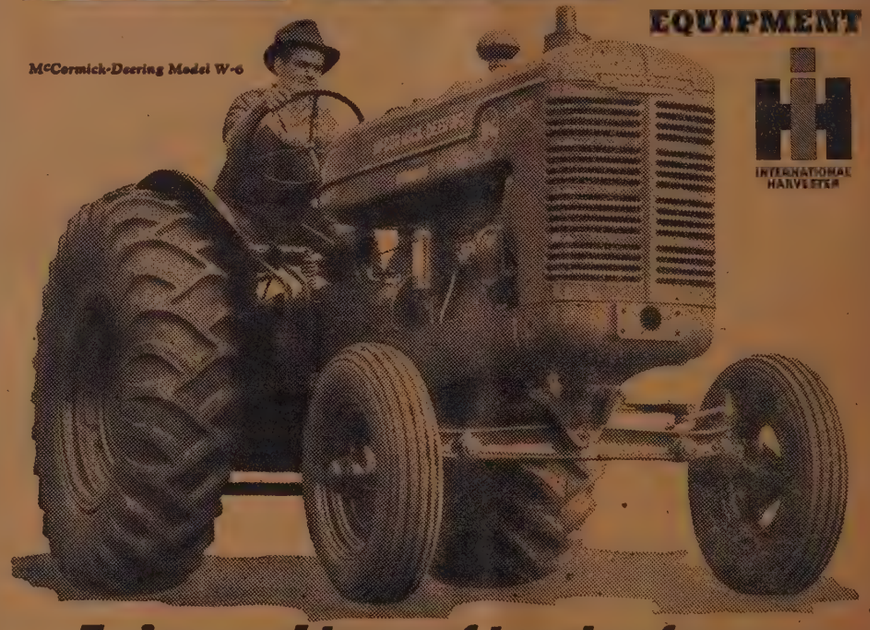


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T88-84 INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY OF AUSTRALIA PTY. LTD. (INC. IN VIC.) BRANCHES IN ALL CAPITAL CITIES

The stone fruits from Stanthorpe are now commencing to arrive in fair quantities, and the public who have been having practically nothing but Bananas for so long, are naturally taking the opportunity to buy the other lines such as Cherries, Apricots, etc. This is resulting in a lesser demand for Bananas, and values, particularly for the smaller grades are easier as a result. Eights, sevens, and good quality sixes, however, continue to realise ceiling prices.

**Pineapples.**—Crops are developing well in all districts, and there is every promise that the Summer crop harvest early in 1946 will be considerably larger than Summer crops of the past years.

Weather conditions have been very favourable to plant development which has enabled growers to use acetylene gas more extensively than in past years. Acetylene gas applied at this time of the year forces the plants to throw the Winter Crop, normally harvested from August to September, so that it is harvested in April and May.

Considerable areas have been planted during the season which is now drawing to a close. There has been a boom demand for Pineapple plants, resulting in prices reaching fantastic levels. It now costs up to £100 per acre for planting material compared with £30 pre-war. This unfortunately is making it extremely difficult for returned Servicemen to establish themselves in the industry, except at an exorbitant cost.

Growers' Associations recently requested the Pineapple Sectional Group Committee to ask the Prices Branch to fix prices for Pineapple planting material. The Association considered that such action would curb what they termed "racketeering" in Pineapple planting material prices. The Pineapple Sectional Group Committee, however, reluctantly came to the conclusion that the proposal was impracticable as there was no way of policing prices. It was thought that such action would inevitably result in a "Black market" for Pineapple plants.

# Dehydration of Apricots Peaches and Pears

By S. A. Trout (C.S.I.R.) and E. G. Hall (N.S.W. Dept. of Agric.)

TREE FRUITS have been preserved successfully by drying and the process has usually been carried out by individual growers in Australia over a period of many years. During the war the production of evaporated Apples has been greatly increased in Tasmania.

There has been no appreciable increase, however, in the production of other dried tree fruits during the war in spite of increased demand by the Services and the public; the production of dried fruits other than Apples has remained constant at about 5,000 tons, with Prunes comprising about half of this quantity.

**Dehydration.**

Artificial drying or dehydration in which temperature, air flow and humidity are controlled in a heated drying tunnel results in a more uniform, hygienic and higher quality product and one with a higher vitamin content than corresponding sun-dried fruit. Because of rapid drying relatively few drying trays are needed, there is a saving in labour, weather hazards become of no importance and fruit can be dried successfully in any climate.

However, on the negative side successful dehydration requires greater uniformity of raw material and more careful control than sun drying. It could be comparatively costly, especially if the dehydration plant is used only during a short fruit season, but by combining the dehydration of stone fruits, Pears, Apples and, if possible, vegetables later in the year, it should be possible to keep operating costs within reasonable limits.

**In America, where the commercial dehydration of stone fruits is becoming well established, it is accepted that dehydration will gradually replace sun drying by reason of the superiority of the dehydrated product.**

**Colour Differences.**

Accepted trade standards for colour and texture in dried stone fruits are based on the sun dried article, and dehydrated fruit in terms of these standards will usually be inferior to the best sun-dried fruit, but better than the average. However, on the basis of colour and texture after cooking, the dehydrated product will compare more favourably with canned fruit than will the sun dried.

Sun-dried Apricots have an attractive deep colour and a glossy, translucent appearance, whereas the dehydrated fruit is usually paler and somewhat dull and opaque. It has been shown experimentally that exposure of the freshly-sulphured fruit to sunlight or to artificially-produced ultra violet light for a short period before drying will satisfactorily deepen the colour. However, blanching before sulphuring so improves the colour that such treatments become unnecessary.

**Importance of Blanching Before Dehydration.**

Experiments in America and at the C.S.I.R. laboratory, which have been confirmed by commercial experience, have shown that blanching the cut fruit in live steam at a temperature of 200-212 deg. F. before sulphuring will enable the production of a dehydrated article superior to the sun dried in texture, reconstitution and palatability. The colour of Apricots may not be as deep as the sun dried, but the colour of blanched dehydrated Peaches will be very much deeper. The colour of blanched dehydrated Pears resembles the sun-dried product. Blanching inactivates by heat certain enzymes responsible for the browning of cut fruits and, by partially breaking down the structure of the fruit tissues, reduces considerably the drying time. In the case of Apricots the absorption and retention of sulphur dioxide is increased by blanching, thus enabling a great reduction in sulphuring time. Blanched fruit reconstitutes quicker than unblanched.

**Method of Blanching.**

The trays of freshly-cut fruit are steamed in a batch-type cabinet blancher or else in a continuous tunnel blancher until the fruit has a semi-cooked and translucent appearance. This can be best judged by cutting a few fruits, and if all except a small area in the centre of the fruit has a cooked appearance, blanching will be satisfactory. If blanching is continued beyond this stage the fruit will bleed during sulphuring and slab during drying. Such slabbed fruit reconstitutes badly and should be graded out from first quality packs.

After drying, properly blanched fruit will be translucent in appearance and of an attractive uniform colour, whereas under-blanched fruit will be more or less opaque and uneven in colour.

The period of blanching will naturally vary with the temperature, the type, maturity and size of the fruit. The blanching time will decrease with increasing maturity, and small fruits require a shorter time than large fruit. Thus to ensure uniform results the fruit should be graded for size before preparation commences. However, if the fruit is sliced, grading for size is unnecessary and a more uniform product is obtained.

The approximate blanching times at 212 deg. F. for halves of average size and canning-ripe maturity are as follow: — Apricots, 2-3 minutes; Pears and Peaches, 8-10 minutes.

**Maturity of Fruit.**

Selection of good quality fruit of uniform maturity and at the canning ripe stage is essential for dehydration, as inferior fruit increases the cost of preparation and yields a product of poor colour, flavour and texture. Under-ripe fruit should not be used, as blanching fixes the greenish colour of such fruit, giving the dried product an unattractive greyish-green appearance. Soft ripe fruit should not be used, as it will break down during blanching and sulphuring with excessive bleeding.

**Sulphuring.**

Blanched fruit only requires sulphuring for a short period, usually ½ to 2 hours' duration, and approximately 8 pounds of sulphur are required for one ton of prepared fruit. Blanching increases the sulphur dioxide retention by Apricots, but not by Peaches and Pears. However, even with unblanched fruit a short sulphuring is sufficient for dehydration, because the loss of sulphur dioxide during the rapid dehydration is very much less than during the slow sun drying.

In large-scale experiments carried out this season both freestone and clingstone Peaches sulphured for 1½ hours at 8 lb. per ton, and then dehydrated, had a final sulphur dioxide content of 1,500-2,000 parts per million. If a higher content is required it is better to resulphur after drying, as longer sulphuring of blanched fruit causes excessive bleeding due to the cups overflowing with juice.

The fruit should be handled on wooden trays during sulphuring and drying, as metal trays are corroded by sulphur dioxide, resulting in dark staining of the fruit.

**Drying Times and Conditions.**

Blanching not only considerably reduces the drying time, but, because blanched fruit does not harden readily, it enables the fruit to be dried at a higher temperature. In practice blanched fruit has usually been dried in two-thirds of the time required for unblanched fruit.

This also means that parallel airflow dehydrators can be used for blanched fruit. Very satisfactory results have been obtained with the two-stage tunnel dehydrators at present used for vegetables, using a dry bulb temperature of 160-170 deg. F. in the primary tunnel and 140-150 deg. F. in the secondary tunnel. Such plants could be used very successfully for drying fruit after the war, when the demand for dried vegetables will be greatly reduced.

**Storage.**

Dried fruits gradually lose flavour and darken in colour during storage. Although blanching prevents discolouration before drying, it does not retard the subsequent deterioration changes. Thus blanched and unblanched fruits of the same moisture and sulphur dioxide content darken equally rapidly in storage. There is also evidence that dehydrated fruits are not superior in keeping quality to sun dried.

**Flavour.**

In the case of Apricots the flavour of the blanched article is superior to the unblanched. This is also true of

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DEHYDRATION—Continued.

unpeeled Peaches and Pears. In the case of peeled Peaches and Pears in halves, which require a much longer time than Apricots for blanching and drying, blanching causes a loss of flavour, apparently due to bleaching and a greater amount of bleeding during blanching and sulphuring.

It is essential to peel Clingstone Peaches, but Freestone Peaches are quite satisfactory if merely defuzzed by brushing under water sprays before pitting.

From the point of view of flavour freestone Peaches and Pears should be dehydrated without blanching or else blanched without peeling. From experimental evidence there is some doubt as to the value of blanching Pears, as in tasting tests on experimentally dehydrated fruit unblanched Pears have been preferred to blanched ones.

**The Drying of Slices.**

Peeled Peaches and Pears are usually dried in halves with drying times of at least 12 hours. If the fruit is sliced, drying can be completed, without blanching, in 3-4 hours. Cling Peaches are sliced lengthwise as for canning and Pears are cut lengthwise into sixths or eighths, depending on the size of the fruit. The slices should be about ¼ inch thick at the base. Such slices have a much higher final sulphur dioxide content than the halves, can be reconstituted very well without preliminary soaking and have a good flavour. The quicker drying time considerably increases the daily capacity of the drier and furthermore slicing eliminates the necessity for preliminary sizing.

Dehydrated, sliced, unblanched clingstone Peaches are a particularly attractive product.—Fruit Preservation Quarterly, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

## FRUIT COOL STORES' ASSOCIATION.

The quarterly meeting of the Orchardists and Fruit Cool Stores' Association of Victoria was held at Melbourne on November 27, Mr. D. W. Lechte presiding over a representative attendance.

**Victoria Market Hours:** The request from the Eastern Metropolitan Fruitgrowers' Association for the calling of a conference to secure a later opening of the Victoria Market (7 a.m.) was discussed, and it was decided not to call the proposed conference, recommending instead continuance of the present trading hours.

**Research Station:** Satisfaction was expressed at the announcement that the Victorian Government had purchased 100 acres near Fern Tree Gully to establish a horticultural research station.

**Arbitration Court:** It was reported that the application for rural workers' award for Southern Victoria had been declared invalid.

**Crop Reports:** The general report was that the Victorian Apple crop was shaping to be fairly heavy: Pears and stone fruits light.

**Next Conference:** A proposal that the next annual conference of the Association (about May) be held in a country centre was approved. Shepparton was suggested.

**Interstate Conference:** The agenda for the Australian Apple and Pear Growers' Conference was considered in detail. It was decided to support the formation of an Australian Association (growers only) and to oppose the proposal for reciprocal trade in Apples with U.S.A.

**Sugar for Jam:** It was decided to ask the Federal Government to make an extra ration of sugar available to the public for jam making.

## VICTORIA.

**Pakenham Upper (12/11/45).**

There was an extremely heavy Apple bloom throughout this district. The setting has been generally good, although in many instances not too heavy. Some reports only a moderate setting of Yates, with Jonathans, Rokewoods, and Granny Smith heavier. These four are the main Gippsland varieties, with Jonathans and Yates preponderating. Considering the scarcity of fertilizers, orchards are in good condition, the trees having come through remarkably well, and provided the rainfall is up to normal for the next four months, the fruit should be of good quality.

**Electric Supply.**—A move is being made for an extension of electric supply to this and surrounding districts, and a strong committee has been formed to further the matter to a successful conclusion.

## ORANGES IN W.A.

A departmental report states that Orange trees in all districts flowered very heavily, particularly the younger trees. There are indications that the coming crop will be a heavy one.

## ENGLISH FRUIT CROPS DAMAGED BY FROST.

The British Ministry of Agriculture has issued the following summary of prospects of fruit crops:—

**Apples.**—Owing to frost damage in most Apple-growing areas the Apple crop, as a whole, will be below average. There are, however, good crops in Kent—a county which has about one-third of the total Apple acreage.

**Pears.**—The Pear crop is expected to be rather below average; most of the frost damage occurred in the less-important Pear-growing districts.

**Plums.**—Except in Kent, the most important of the Plum-growing areas, the frost damage was severe. Total supplies will be moderate instead of very heavy, as was expected before the frost.

## APPROVED SEED POTATOES.

The "approved" Seed Potato Scheme, operated by the Victorian Department of Agriculture during the past two seasons was established to satisfy an increasing demand for good quality seed Potatoes, which could not wholly be met from supplies available under the "certified" Seed Potato Scheme.

Potato growers who desire to sell their produce as "approved" seed are invited to make application for crop inspection to the Agricultural Superintendent Department of Agriculture, Melbourne, C.2. Applicants must state the source of the seed from which their crop was planted, the variety, the date on which planting was completed and the area submitted for inspection.

Crop inspections will be confined to recognised seed producing areas, and approval will be restricted to the following varieties: — Early Carman, Late Carman, Up-to-Date, Katahdin and Sebago. Crops which, on examination, show more than 7 per cent. undesirable plants will not be accepted for "approved" seed purposes, and only those crops grown from seed "certified" the previous season will be accepted for inspection.

Applications for crop inspection under the "approved" Seed Potato Scheme will close on January 31, 1946.


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# ARDMONA

(Continued from page 24, November issue.)

**Uncertain Markets.**

In the early days when Ardmona orchards came into full bearing, the Melbourne market was often oversupplied—in '93, table grapes were only bringing 2/- a case, and Peaches in '95 as low as 2/6 a case. Fruit prices which had been from £4 to £6 per ton rapidly improved when the Goulburn Valley growers began dispatching to the Sydney markets, then Melbourne canneries had to compete for the fruit and prices advanced to £10 to £12 per ton. During the 1914 to '18 war, phenomenal prices were obtained from the Government pool. However, when the pool ceased operating, the fruit from the new Government Closer Settlement Orchards and from the increased private plantings was coming on to the market and prices collapsed. Fortunately the Government, being itself deeply involved in its Closer Settlements, came to the rescue and assisted in the formation and financing of co-operative canneries.

**Ardmona Cannery.**

Swallow and Ariel Ltd., had opened a small cannery at Mooroopna some years before, mainly for pulping and drying fruit, and in 1921, it was purchased by the Ardmona Fruit Products Co-Operative Co. Ltd., which pulped fruits and dehydrated Apricots,, Peaches, Nectarines and Prunes. In December, 1925, new buildings were erected and plant and machinery installed and canning started in earnest.

In 1927, a 56,000 case cool store and ice making plant were constructed to hold the rush of fruit at peak periods. The ice was also readily availed for cooling consignments on their long interstate train journeys. The cool store has been doubled in size in recent times, and at the moment finishing touches are being put to a 50,000 case cool store, mainly for holding export Pears, Josephs and Packhams. Eventually this will comprise 28 chambers, each with a 4,400 case capacity. Each chamber is cooled by the very latest brine circulating batteries, which have no coiling exposed.

In the early stages, losses were experienced, but these have since been made up. Mr. Shoesmith, the manager, says labour shortages have been his main difficulty over the past few years. Efforts have therefore been made to attract workers in the peak canning period from Christmas to April. To this end a comfortable 250 bed hostel has been erected and entertainment facilities provided for leisure hours. Having brought the workers to a state of proficiency in their first season, it is considered a very worth-while proposition to make conditions so pleasant that they will be happy to return in following seasons.

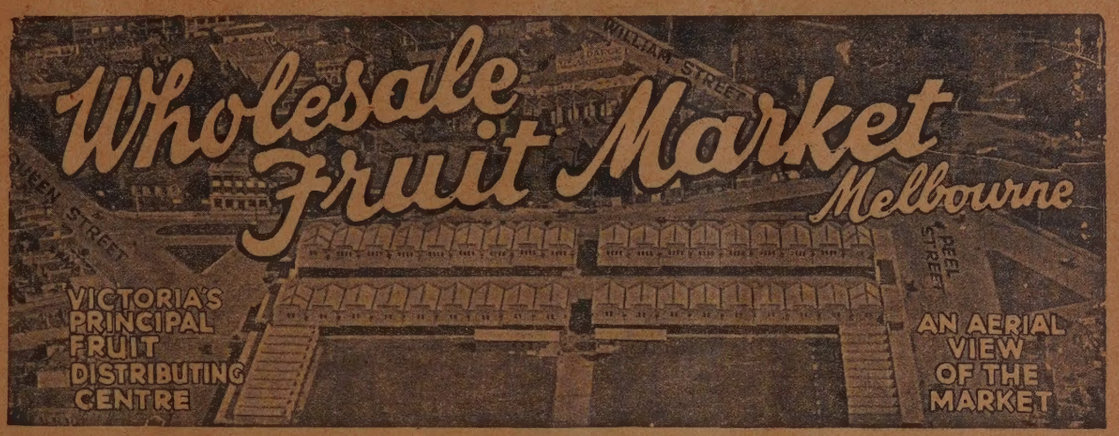
To reduce selling costs, the Ardmona and Kyabram Canneries amalgamated their sales departments a few years ago, and the joint Company known as the Goulburn Valley Canners Pty. Ltd. handles all Australasian sales for both Companies. Last year the combined pack amounted to twenty million cans.

During the war the Ardmona Cannery has been in operation for almost twelve months of the year, canning fruit from Christmas to April and vegetables, Potatoes, Parsnips, Turnips, but mostly Carrots, during the winter months.

**TASMANIA.**

The Tasmanian Apple and Pear Exports Defence Fund, created in 1921 to enable legal action to be taken to fight claims against shipping companies for losses through inefficient carriage now stands at £9,500.

A Bill was passed in the House of Assembly to invest this fund in the State Fruit Board with the provision that it must be used solely for its original purpose.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# Market Notes and Prices

## NEW SOUTH WALES.

**Sydney (28/11/45).**

The State Marketing Bureau reports increased supplies of stone fruits, particularly Peaches and Plums, were forward. The market for Peaches was easier for medium to small sizes, but choice large well coloured fruit sold up to the ceiling level of 20/- per half case.

Consignments of cherries were received daily from the Orange and Young districts. Demand generally was satisfactory and values were firm on most days. At, closing, however, request was restricted and rates, compared with the previous day, were easier.

Inquiries for Apricots was well maintained and choice fruit sold up to 30/- per half-case. Late in the period, marketing of Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area fruit commenced.

**Current prices:** Apples: New Season's Cookers, 29/-; Pears. Victorian, Winter Nelis, 30/-; Oranges: Valencia, to 20/-; Lemons: Coastal, 10/- to 18/- per bushel case; Bananas, 4d. to 5½d., inferior lower per lb. (Weight 80 to 96 lb. per case); Passionfruit: Queensland, 30/- to 45/-; Peaches, 10/- to 18/-, small from 5/-; Apricots 12/- to 26/-, few specials to 30/-; Plums, 8/- to 16/-, extra choice to 20/-, small from 4/-; Mangoes: Apple, 20/- to 25/-; Rock Melons: Queensland, 8/- to 15/- per half-case; Cherries, 10/- to 14/-, extra choice to 16/-, inferior lower; Gooseberries, 10/- to 12/- per quarter-case; Papaws, 20/- to 30/-; Pineapples, 21/3 (nominal), per tropical case.

Vegetables: Peas, 10/- to 20/-, choice to 23/4; Beans, 10/- to 16/-, extra choice to 20/-, inferior from 5/- per bushel; Cabbages, 4/- to 10/-, few higher; Marrows, 3/- to 6/-; Squash, 3/- to 6/- per dozen; Lettuce, 8/- to 17/- per case; Carrots, 20/- to 25/- per cwt.; Parsnips, 4/- to 6/-; White Turnips, 3/- to 4/-; Rhubarb, 4/- to 8/-; Spinach, 6/- to 10/-; Celery (Local), 6/- to 15/-; Asparagus, 12/- to 36/-; Mint, 6/-; Parsley, 18/- to 24/-; Radishes, 4/- to 5/-; Beetroot, 3/- to 7/- per doz. bunches; Tomatoes: Metropolitan, Field Grown, 24/- to 32/-, early sales to 34/-; Glasshouse: 1st quality, 28/- to 32/-, other grades from 18/-, small and inferior lower; North Coast, 12/- to 20/-, choice 25/-, few special lines to 30/-, inferior lower, per half-case; Potatoes: 1st Grade, 7/10½; Onions: (Queensland), White, 14/- to 18/-; Brown 12/- to 14/-; Swedes to 12/- (nominal); Pumpkins, 18/- to 20/-; Sweet Potatoes, 16/- (nominal) per cwt.; Cucumbers: Apple, 8/- to 18/-; Green 8/- to 14/- per half-case.

## VICTORIA.

**Melbourne (4/12/45).**

Vegetables: Asparagus, 3/- to 8/- per 100; Beans, Broad, 3/- to 7/- 50 lb.; do., French, 10d to 1/1 lb.; Beetroot, 9d to 1/- doz., max. 17/- cwt.; Beet, Silver, 3/- to 4/- doz. bunches; Cabbages, 4/- to 7/- doz.; Carrots, 4/- to 4/6 doz. bunches, max. 21/- cwt. without tops, 16/- cwt. with tops; Cauliflowers, 8/- to 15/- doz.; Celery, 6/- to 8/- do.; Cucumbers, 2/- to 4/- do.; Garlic, 1/- lb.; Horseradish, 1/- to 1/3 bundle; Lettuce, 3/ to 6/- case; Mint, 2/- to 2/6 doz. bunches; Onions, Silver 3/- to 3/6 case; do., green, 2/- to 2/6 doz. bunches; Parsley, 2/- to 3/- do.; Parsnips, 3/6 to 4/6 do., max. 23/- cwt. without tops, 18/- cwt. with tops; Pears, 12/- to 16/- 50 lb., few to 20/-; Potatoes, 10/- to 11/- bag; Pumpkins, 9/ to 24/- doz.; Radish, 1/6 to 2/6 doz. bunches; Rhubarb, 3/- to 4/- do.; Spinach, 4/- to 6/- do.; Tomatoes, 6/- to 15/- half-case, few S.A. to 25/-;Turnips, 2/- to 2/6 doz bunches; do., Swede, 10/- to 12/6 bag, 4/- to 4/6 doz. bunches; Vegetable Marrows, 6/- to 9/- doz.

Fruit (bushel case, unless stated): Apples: Eating, 22/- to 27/-; Cooking, 20/- to 27/-; Apricots, 15/- to 32/-; few to 35/-; Cherries, 6d. to 10d. lb.; few to 1/-; Red Currants, 1/- punnet; Loganberries, 6d. to 7d. punnet; Oranges: Navel and Valencias, to 20/6 (max); Lemons, 15/- to 20/- (max.); Gooseberries: Green, 6/- to 8/- doz. lb.; Raspberries, 1/- to 1/6 punnet; Strawberries, 9d. to 2/- punnet, few to 2/3; Peaches, 15/- to 30/-; Pears: Dessert, Packham, 25/- to 30/-; Culinary, 18/- to 24/-; Papaws, 25/- to 30/- dble case. Cherry Plums, 6/- to 10/-; Bananas to 6½d. lb. (max); Pineapples to 23/9 dble case (max.); Passion-fruit, 35/- to 45/- half case, few to 50/-; Cantaloupes, 12/- to 20/-.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

**Adelaide (5/12/45).**

The S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association report Tomatoes sold freely on Wednesday's market. Beans were well picked up on a quiet market. Peas were quiet. Cabbages sold well. Cauliflowers were short. All lines of bunch vegetables cleared freely. Good quality Apricots sold well; inferior were slow. The Cherry market showed more life. A good demand for Strawberries prevailed.

The undermentioned quotations are for F.A.Q. cases extra except where stated:—

Vegetables: Beans, broad, 4/- bus., French, 10/- doz. lb.; Beetroot, 3/- doz. bunches; Cabbages: large, 8/- doz., medium, 6/-, small, 4/-; Carrots, 3/6 doz. bunches; Cauliflowers: large, 14/- doz., medium, 10/- doz., small, 7/- doz.; Cucumbers: green, 3/- to 5/- doz., Apple, 3/- to 5/- doz.; Lettuces, 2/6; Onions: pickling, 18/- cwt., White, 14/- cwt.; Parsnips, 4/- doz. bunches; Peas, 8/- to 10/- bushel; Potatoes, 8/1½ cwt.; Rhubarb: Cherry, 2/- doz. lb.; Tomatoes: Firsts, 18/- half-case; Trombones, 16/4 cwt.; Turnips, 3/- doz. bunches; Swede, 4/-; Vegetable Marrow, 16/4 doz.; Triambles, 16/4 ewt.

Fruits: Apples and all varieties, 27/- per case; Apricots, 12/-, choice higher; Plums: Japanese, 14/-, Cherry Plums, 8/-; Cherries: Light, 20/-, Tartarians, 28/-; Blacks, 20/- to 23/-; Gooseberries, 12/- half case; Strawberries, 15/- doz lb. Currant: Red, 12/- doz.; Bananas, ripe, 6½d. per lb. Pineapples, 5½d. per lb.

## APPLE SHORTAGE IN SYDNEY.

Writing in mid-November, the Tasmanian Government Marketing Officer in Sydney (Mr. H. McKay), stated there was an acute shortage of Apples in Sydney and that the 10,000 cases from Tasmania and 4,000 cases of Granny Smith's from W.A. failed to meet the demand. Supplies were being rationed. Tasmanian Democrats, Croftons also W.A. Grannies realised 29/- per case.

Victorian Pears, P.T., W. Nelis, Jos. & and Winter Cole brought 29/- per bushel.

## S. AUST CHAMBER OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INDUSTRY.

**Linked with Commonwealth Chamber War-Time Controls—New Markets.**

At the annual meeting of the S. Aust Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries held at Adelaide on Nov. 8th, the retiring president, Mr. V. E. Fromen, stated the following committees had been set up:—Prices Control, Potato Merchants, Pea Agents, Citrus Agents and Eastern exports. The Commonwealth Chamber had taken over from the Wholesale Fruit Merchants of Adelaide Ltd., the S. Aust. membership of the chamber, leaving the Wholesale Fruit Merchants of Adelaide Ltd., as a freighting and trading body.

There were 45 members present. Mr. C. S. I. Queale of the Soldiers' Producers Marketing Society, who was elected president, said vegetable production has increased enormously in the war years. To handle the huge surpluses, war-time controls should be eliminated. New markets must be found, there would be a big increase in vegetable trade with the Near East if shipping were available. The Secretary is Mr. L. G. Heading.

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## PIG NUMBERS DECLINE.

In the twelve months to March, 1945, the number of pigs in Victoria declined from 337,878 to 296,232. The number of boars also fell from 7,289 to 6,361 in the same period. Commenting on these figures, Mr. L. A. Downey, Pig Expert of the Vict. Dept. of Agric., points out that the decline in pig breeding persisted over the full twelve months, in spite of the high price being received for pigs during that time, and was due largely to a scarcity of pig foods of all kinds.

The Pig Meat Acquisition Plan continued to operate, but prices of pigs at auction were generally higher than those fixed under the plan. During the last quarter of the year ended 30th June, 1945, the Deputy Controller of Meat Supplies in Victoria, in an endeavour to force prices back nearer those fixed under the plan, applied weekly pig slaughter quotas to licensed operators, and also acquired some live pigs which had been bought at auction.

The quantity of pig meat available to the domestic trade was limited. Small quantities of frozen meat were exported to the United Kingdom, and an increased proportion of pig meat was supplied to the fighting forces in the South-West Pacific area.

Average weight of baconer carcasses was good, demonstrating that most of the pigs in this State are capable of producing first-grade carcasses at weights ranging from 150 lb. to 200 lb.

Low quality pig meat was due mostly to excessive fatness and originated chiefly on those farms where kitchen and factory refuse were fed to pigs. Store pigs were so scarce and so high in price that most pig fatteners chose to carry their pigs on past prime condition rather than buy stores.

The demand for better breeding stock continued, and despite the overall decline in pig breeding, the sales of stud pigs were very satisfactory. During the year under review the Victorian Department of Agriculture assisted in the distribution of selected stud pigs by selecting 98 pigs for purchasers.

## HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

To make shoe polish that has hardened usable, add a few drops of turpentine.

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For tar on rugs or floor, cover with brown paper and iron over with warm iron. The paper will absorb the melted tar.

:: :: ::

For those old woollen blankets that have shrunk too short—sew a piece of unbleached muslin or cotton flannel on the end—tuck it in at the foot.

:: :: ::

When sewing with double thread—tie a knot in the end of each thread to keep it from snarling.

Judge to prisoner: "What's your name and occupation and what are you charged with?"

Prisoner: "May name is Sparks. I'm an electrician and I'm charged with battery."

Judge: "Officer, put this man in a dry cell and conduct him there by a short circuit."

## SCALY-LEG MITE ON POULTRY.

The first signs of attack by the scaly-leg mite are found in the clefts between the toes, and the mites spread forward and upward until the foot and leg become affected. The two legs are usually attacked at the same time, and show the condition to the same degree. According to entomologists of the Vict. Dept. of Agric., there is only a slight roughening of the surface of the legs at first, but the continued irritation by the mites causes the formation of a spongy or powdery substance under the scales, which become raised and finally easily detached. Scaly-leg is very readily transmitted from bird to bird. Common hosts are domestic fowls, turkeys, pheasants, pigeons and cage birds.

The most effective treatment for scaly-leg is to dip the feet and shanks of the affected bird in crude oil, and scrub thoroughly with a hard brush. Care should be taken not to get the oil on the upper parts of the legs or on the feathers. Dipping is best carried out in the morning, to allow the oil to drain off before the birds go to roost. Washing the legs in soap and water, removing loose scales with a brush, and applying a mixture of lard, 9 parts and sulphur 1 part, is also an effective treatment. Disinfection of the perches by spraying with crude oil is also recommended as a preventive.

## SUPERPHOSPHATE DELIVERIES.

The Director of Agriculture in Victoria, Mr. H. A. Mullett, has been advised by the fertilizer manufacturers that unless more orders are lodged for December delivery, it would be impossible to deliver the increased quantities available in time for seasonal use. It is essential that considerable quantities be distributed before the end of December, 25,000 tons being the objective for that month.

The quota for distribution in Victoria in the year ending 30th June next is 362,795 tons, as compared with the 279,474 tons last year. All users will share in this increase, the ration for non-priority crops having been increased by 50 per cent., except in the case of large users.

The quality of the superphosphate being made this year is not quite equal to pre-war standards, but it is the best which can be made from the lower quality phosphate rock available. If the bags of fertiliser are placed on end, and not stacked in high heaps, setting will be reduced to a minimum.

Only a few months remain before the optimum time for topdressing pastures, and it is suggested that this work be done earlier in 1946 than is usually the case, so obtaining the maximum response to the topdressing, and, in addition, spreading the work of delivery.

Mr. Mullett advises users of superphosphate to take delivery of their fertiliser as early as practicable, and thus avoid the necessity of introducing a quota system under which deliveries to each user would be limited to a percentage of his ration.

## PAINTING TREE WOUNDS.

Where trees have large cuts or wounds, the exposed portions should be trimmed with a sharp knife and painted with bituminous paint or white lead paint. The first-mentioned is preferable.

This action prevents the entry of diseases which can otherwise destroy the tree.

Rastus: "What's that word matrimony mean?"

Sambo: "That ain't no word, man, that's a sentence."


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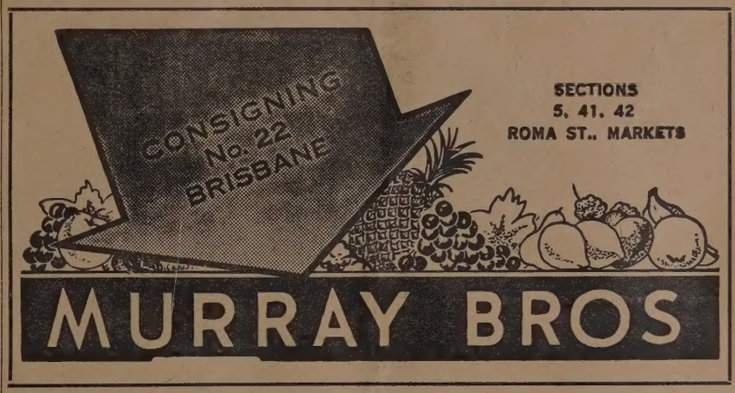


**– SPECIAL NOTICE TO FRUITGROWERS –**

In response to numerous requests from growers for information as to who are members of the
**VICTORIAN CHAMBER OF FRUIT & VEGETABLE INDUSTRIES,**
the following list is given. All are members of the above Association, and are registered firms carrying on business in the WHOLESALE FRUIT MARKET, MELBOURNE. (All Members under Fidelity Bond)
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DAVID SMITH PTY. LTD. (3).
SILBERT SHARP & DAVIES PTY. LTD. (17).
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WING YOUNG & CO. (38).
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YOUNG SANG (45).

Correspondence is invited by the Association.
Office: 21 Wholesale Fruit Market, Queen St., Melbourne. Phone: F 4866.

# Dried Fruits Industry

**Conference of State Boards.**

A CONFERENCE of the four dried fruit producing States was held at Melbourne on 25th and 26th October, 1945. All boards were fully represented.

The following were in attendance:

**Victorian.**—Messrs. Parker J. Moloney, Chairman; F. M. Read, M.Ag., Sc.; D. E. Barry Wood; D. A. Cockroft; H. V. Davey; S. R. Mansell; A. Rawlings.

**South Australian.**—Messrs. G. A. W. Pope, I.S.O.; F. M. McMillan; J. R. Jemison; C. E. Russell; C. W. Till.

**New South Wales.**—Messrs. G. J. Evatt; P. C. Cox; J. C. Granger; E. J. Hudson; L. B. O'Donnell.

**Western Australia.**—Messrs. H. S. Bickford; J. Duff, Jnr.; G. McD. Edgecombe; C. A. Sharman; G. E. Stone.

In attendance:—Messrs. E. H. Rosman, Secretary, W. A. Board; C. N. Hall, N. S. W. Board; and J. E. S. Bates, Victorian Board; and Mrs. E. M. Suffern, Acting Secretary, Victorian Board.

The Secretary of the Conference was Mr. W. N. Twiss (Secretary S. Aust. Board).

Mr. Parker J. Moloney, who presided, said that during the difficult war years the export market had been regularly supplied, and Australian prices had been maintained. The Commonwealth Government had provided growers with a subsidy on their 1945 vine crop to compensate for the diversion to export of fruits which could have been sold more profitably in Australia.

In officially opening the Conference, the Victorian Director of Agriculture (Mr. H. A. Mullett), congratulated the dried fruits industry on its efficient organisation. He urged an economic survey of the industry before the adoption of any policy of expansion.

**Australian Dried Fruits Association.**

Representatives of the A.D.F.A. (Messrs. D. C. Winterbottom, W. N. Sumner, J. Gordon and H. R. Jones), attended and discussed items relative to Publicity. Further Plantings and Overseas Preferences.

**Publicity.**

The [illegible] of the Dried Fruits Industry film which was displayed to senior school pupils.

The Chairman reported on the activities of the publicity committee during the war and the appropriation for post-war advertising. It was decided to recommend the launching of publicity drives to maintain and increase the sale of dried fruits.

**Possible Market Collapse.**

It was resolved that in view of the possibility of a sudden collapse of dried fruit prices to support the policy of long-range plans for disposal of exportable surpluses.

**Packing House Equipment.**

Messrs. Ross Grant, F. H. Colbey, C. G. Ralph and W. B. Seamons (Dept. of Commerce), attended to discuss packing house equipment in relation to the report of Mr. H. R. Tinney and it was decided that while appreciating that many packing houses had made provisions for the elimination of dust and dirt, steps should be taken to ensure that other packing houses do likewise.

**Further Plantings.**

The danger of over-planting was emphasized and it was decided to endorse the recommendations of the Adelaide Conference to the Australian Agricultural Council.

**Statistics.**

It was resolved to request the Consultative Committee to arrange a further conference to establish uniform procedure in collecting and recording statistics. A single authority was commended.

Other Conference items included Uniform Account Sales, Green Tinge in Sultanas, Standardisation of Grades, Grading of Lexias and Walthams, etc.

In proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Mr. G. A. W. Pope said that Mr. Parker Moloney, as Minister for Commerce, had negotiated the Australian-Canadian Trade treaty at Ottawa which provided for the substantial preferences which had so greatly benefited the industry. The resolution was carried with applause.

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## RECLAMATION OF SALTED LAND.

**Will Grow Stone, Pome Fruit, also Vines Instead of Citrus.**

At the C.S.I.R. Research Station, Griffith, members of the M.I.A. Extension Group Service recently met Messrs. F. M. Read and A. Morgan, of the Vict. Dept. of Agric., and Mr. A. L. Tisdall, of the C.S.I.R. Research Station, Deniliquin. There was a large attendance.

When asked regarding the growing of citrus on reclaimed land, Mr. Read said that Victorian experience showed that some salted lands, when reclaimed by drainage, were still unsuitable for citrus, because of the heavy irrigation necessary to wash the salt down, but grew excellent stone and pome fruits, also vines.

## SOLDIER FRUIT SETTLEMENTS.

In the N.S.W. Legislative Assembly on November 1, Mr. Tully, Minister for Lands, in reply to a question put by Mr. S. T. Stephens, member for Byron, said he had no information that, in the application of soldier land settlement, tropical fruit culture and Banana growing were not approved by the Federal authorities as farming pursuits.

The Minister added that the Commonwealth and New South Wales would have a considerable say in determining the types of land that would be made available for soldier land settlement.

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